

All participants are expected to read this Participation Contract in its entirety. Questions should be sent to study.abroad@wku.edu.

PROGRAM LEADERS

Dr. Roger Murphy
Associate Professor- Political Science
roger.murphy@wku.edu

COURSES

PS 260: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Colonnade course!)
PS 369: Central European Politics (Colonnade course!)
PS 450: Special Topics in Comparative Politics

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotels & Hostels

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The relatively small states of Central Europe have often been neglected as an area of study due to their position between the larger powers to the west (Britain, France & Germany) and the east (Russia). Students will have the opportunity to examine the rich history, culture and politics of Central Europe in this program. The site visits are chosen to take advantage of the outstanding museums, galleries and other locations to explain the struggles over national, religious and political identity that have shaped the region. Using the 'city as text' approach, students will explore the rich architectural heritage and visit nearly a dozen UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The program is open to all majors and is designed not only to introduce students to Central Europe but also to encourage them to think in comparative terms about politics, society, economics and identity.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PS 260

- Describe the field of comparative politics and comparative political analysis.
- Define key institutions and processes and make comparisons across different types of political systems.
- Design basic comparative research, identifying independent and dependent variables as related to comparative politics theory and concepts.

PS 369

- Students will be able to describe the field of Central European politics.
- Students will be able to define key individuals, institutions and regional and global processes affecting the states of Central Europe.
- Students will be able to conduct basic comparative research, identifying internal and external independent and dependent variables as related to Central European politics utilizing relevant theory and concepts.
- Students will be able to analyze the interconnectedness of domestic, regional and international processes, conditions, norms and institutions affecting Central European states and societies at both the micro and macro levels.

PS 450

- Students will be able to describe the effects of global processes including economic integration, transcultural diffusion, liberalization, and democratization on Central European state institutions and societies.
- Students will be able to identify and evaluate phases of political, economic and social transition
- Students will be able to utilize the city as text to conduct basic research on the politics of transition

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: Based in Olomouc, Czech Republic with visits to Prague (Czech Republic), Cesky Krumlov (Czech Republic), Vienna (Austria), Budapest (Hungary), Wroclaw (Poland), Krakow (Poland). Locations outside of the Czech Republic are subject to change based on what is possible with the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACADEMIC TERM & PROGRAM DATES: Summer 2022: May 19 – June 29, 2022 (expected dates)

ITINERARY (subject to change)

Students will be provided with a finalized itinerary closer to program departure.

Sample Itinerary

May 19 | Depart the U.S.A. to Prague, Czech Republic

May 20-26 | Olomouc, Czech Republic (The group will base out of Olomouc.) - *Olomouc will serve as the main location during the program of study. The city served as the capital of Moravia until its destruction during the Thirty Years War. It was the site of the murder of the last Přemyslid king, Wenceslas III (1305) and of the coronation of Franz Josef (Austrian Emperor 1848-1918). The city is famous not only for its outstanding architecture but also for its archbishopric, university and headquarters of the Czech army. During the program in Olomouc the group will also travel to areas of regional importance such as Brno (the capital of Moravia), Austerlitz (site of Napoleon's famous victory in 1805), Bouzov Castle (ruled by the Teutonic Knights), Lednice & Valtice (chateaux owned by the Liechtenstein family, Kroměříž (site of the 1848 Congress of Nations) and several more.*

May 26-28 | Vienna, Austria - *Vienna is the capital of Austria and the former imperial capital of the Habsburg Empire. During our stay the students will visit the imperial palaces of the Hofburg (with the royal treasury) and Schönbrunn (where the monarchy was dissolved in 1918 and where Kennedy met Khrushchev in 1961). Students will also be able to visit the magnificent St. Stephen's Cathedral, the world famous art gallery and visit the military museum (which includes the car, couch and blood stained uniform of Franz Ferdinand after his assassination in 1914).*

May 28 | Depart Vienna, Vltčnov-Ride of the Kings, Velehrad- pilgrimage site, Modrá-archeological site - Arrive Olomouc in the evening.

May 29-June 9 | Olomouc - Sites to explore: Javoříčko caves (good shoes and clothes, cold inside) Bouzov castle, lunch arranged, Litovel Kroměříž, gardens, chateau, Slavkov chateau, lunch arranged, Brno- casemates, underground, Helfštýn castle, Tatra museum Kopřivnice, Pustevny, and Radegast,

June 10-11 | Budapest - Budapest is the capital of Hungary. This beautiful city has a tumultuous past and students will visit the Royal Palace, St. Stephen's Basilica, the Citadel (site of the final siege of the city during the Second World War), the great Synagogue and Jewish museum, the House of Terror (reflecting the years of fascist and communist control) and the National History Museum. Students will also have the opportunity to take a cruise on the River Danube through the heart of the city. On their way to Budapest, the group will stop in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.

June 12-16 | Olomouc Explore/lesson time

June 17-19 | Krakow, Poland - *Kraków is a former capital of Poland and students will visit the royal palace, Wawel Cathedral and national crypt during the program. The magnificent St. Mary's Basilica contains an altarpiece by Veit Stoss which is regarded as the finest example of its kind. Kraków was also the capital of the General Government during World War Two and students will visit the Jewish quarter, the factory of Oscar Schindler and the horrors of the extermination camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. The group will also visit the world famous salt mines at Wieliczka.*

Sites to explore: Krakow Schindler factory, Krakow Wawel Castle & Cathedral, St.Mary's & museum under the square, Rynek art gallery overnight in Krakow,

June 20-21 | Wrocław - - *Wrocław is the former capital of Silesia and has been part of Poland, Bohemia, Austria, Prussia and Germany before its 'return' to Poland after the Second World War. Known for its magnificent town hall, guild buildings, churches and museums, the city has fashioned itself as the friendly city after the mass deportations of the 20th Century.*

Sites to explore: Main squares, Cathedral & Royal Palace, Wrocław leaving via Kutná Hora (ossuary & St. Barbara).

June 22-28 | Prague | *One of the most beautiful cities in Europe, Prague has been at the center of European politics for centuries. From the defenestrations at the New Town Hall (leading to the Hussite Wars), at Prague Castle (leading to the Thirty Years War) to the Černín Palace (paving the way for the communist coup) to the peaceful gatherings at Wenceslas Square leading to the Velvet Revolution in 1989, the group will explore the drama, magic and tragedy of this breathtaking city.*

Sites to explore: Prague Walking tour of Prague, Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral & St. Nicholas in Mala Strana, Slav Epic, Mucha exhibit, tour of parliament and meeting with MPs, Prague Jewish quarter, Museum of Communism, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Museum of Torture, Prague Old Town.

June 29 | Return flight to USA

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

ELIGIBILITY

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement:** All participants on WKU Faculty-Led Programs are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to departure. "Fully vaccinated" means receiving a [CDC](#), [FDA](#), or [WHO](#) authorized vaccine that is accepted in your host location and that your 2nd dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or the dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine must take place at least 14 days prior to program departure.
- Student must complete the Global Learning & International Affairs online application process.
- Permission of program leader(s) is required. Program leaders will review applications prior to acceptance decision.
- Student must be in good academic standing.
- Student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- Current WKU students eligible to register for WKU courses may apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as [visiting students](#).
- Students must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure.
- Students must possess a passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date.
- Students must be free of active disciplinary sanctions as verified by the Office of Student Conduct.
 - Students who become ineligible to attend the program after applying due to disciplinary sanctions will be subject to standard program cost penalty rates. Students are responsible for notifying the Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning when they become aware of this ineligibility.
- Students must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Full payment is due prior to date of departure.

PROGRAM FEE

Estimated Program Fee: \$5900-\$6200* (based on final airfare & lodging costs)

*Students should be prepared to pay the higher end of the price range.

Included in Base Package

- Undergraduate tuition for 3-6 credit hours
- Round-Trip Group Flight between the U.S. (typically Nashville or Louisville) & Prague
- Lodging for duration of program
 - See exceptions below concerning medical quarantines
- Entrance fees for all required excursions

- Designated group meals
- Course-related ground transportation
- Comprehensive international medical insurance that covers accidents, medical treatment, security evacuation and trip interruption

Excluded from Base Package

- [Travel Cancellation Insurance](#)- highly recommended
 - Most travel cancellation insurance policies require that insurance is purchased within a specific timeline after making a program deposit payment. See individual plan policies for more information.
- Medical costs not covered by WKU travel insurance and/or participant's personal insurance
 - Participants are responsible for additional costs related to COVID-19 or other illness, such as required COVID testing prior to, during, and after travel; costs related to mandatory quarantines while on-site that are in addition to the program cost, such as additional lodging, meals, and/or transportation costs caused by the quarantine or illness
- Items not explicitly listed as included
- Transportation between your departure airport and your home
- Independent travel expenses (voluntary travel not required for course completion)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access
- Tips for guides and drivers not included in program-related activity
- Meals, services, and beverages not mentioned as designated group meals
- Baggage fees and costs associated with flight / program logistical changes based on the student's preference (as possible)

Faculty-Led Program courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts.

GLIA does its best to include all anticipated costs and contingencies in this Participation Contract. On occasion, the terms of this contract may change due to significant changes in programming or pricing.

LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS

- **Travel ID Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program. **Please begin application process no later than 4 months prior to departure.** / Each participant must have a valid ID for air travel within the United States prior to program departure.
- **COVID-19 Social Distancing Requirements-**
 - Participants should expect social distancing measures and regulations, including the wearing of masks, to be in place for the duration of their program. All participants must follow social distancing regulations put into place by the program, host locations, and/or airports/airlines.
 - It is highly encouraged for all program participants to practice social distancing measures for at least a week prior to program departure to limit the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. This includes wearing masks and where possible, staying at home.
- **Physical Considerations-** The curriculum of this study abroad course will require on-site visits to residences, museums, and fields. On some of these trips the class will walk several miles, including up and down the stairways. The ability to participate in these tours is required. Weather in Central Europe at this time of year can vary. Students are encouraged to bring a sturdy pair of walking shoes or boots, as well as lightweight clothing and clothing that can withstand dampness.

PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<p>Payment & Billing Schedule</p> <p>February 1, 2022 – Priority Application & Non-refundable Program Deposit (\$250) Payment* Deadline</p> <p>February 1, 2022 – Program Fee will be invoiced to student's TopNet account (minus \$250 non-refundable deposit*). Balance must be paid by payment deadline. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>May 1, 2022 - Program balance payment deadline**.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit/debit card at time of application acceptance– NOT billed to student account. Deposit required to confirm space on program roster.</p> <p>**Students may provide an award notification for financial aid from WKU's Student Financial Assistance office that verifies financial aid amount and disbursement date if after payment deadline.</p>	<p>Withdrawal Penalty & Non-Payment Policy:</p> <p>Deposit Non-Refundable</p> <p>After February 1: 25% of program cost remains billable After March 1: 50% of program cost remains billable After April 1: 75% of program cost remains billable After May 1: 100% of program cost remains billable/No refund</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, a transcript and registration hold will be placed on the student's account by the WKU Bursar's Office.</p> <p>Withdrawal Process: The student must inform Global Learning & International Affairs directly and in writing (email accepted, study.abroad@wku.edu) if he or she chooses to withdraw from a program. No other statements of withdrawal will be considered as notification of withdrawal, therefore, the student will still be considered a program participant until this written notification is received. Withdrawal penalties will be based on the notification date as listed in the Payment Terms and Conditions section of this Participation Contract (see above) and are in effect regardless of when program deposit is paid.</p>
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Program Cost Invoicing: Your program balance will be invoiced to your TopNet account for the term in which the program takes place. When making payments for your program balance, please let the WKU Cashier's Office know that your payment is for your faculty-led program balance. The total amount due in your semester bill may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. If you have any questions, please email study.abroad@wku.edu.

Financial Aid: Students are reminded and encouraged to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) even if you have not received financial aid in the past (must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen to complete FAFSA) . You must have a FAFSA on file if you plan to use federal financial aid to help cover the cost of the program. If your financial aid will disburse after the program balance payment deadline, you may provide an award notification for financial aid from WKU's Student Financial Assistance office that verifies financial aid amount and disbursement date. Please reach out to Tiffany Denton (tiffany.denton@wku.edu) in the Student Financial Assistance office for questions on financial aid.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accommodations Resource Center (SARC) on the first floor of Downing Student Union. Contact SARC at 270.745.5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor, instructor, or Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.
