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Dr. Kailash Khandke is the Assistant Dean for Study Away & International Education and a professor in the Economics department and Asian Studies Department here at Furman. He started at Furman with the economics department in 1995 and moved to the office for Study Away & International Education in 2007. Dr. Khandke is married to Veena Khandke, who is an Adjunct Lecturer in Asian Studies. They have a daughter, Divya Khandke, who is headed to Davidson College this fall. Dr. Khandke is an avid tennis player. He enjoys reading and keeping up with current events especially recent changes and transitions in the world economy and global politics. "By introducing perspectives and traditions from their home country, international students enrich the academic, social and cultural environment on small liberal arts colleges. I respect the fact that international students have already taken a massive step by relocating and investing in their education abroad. Seeing international students develop critical thinking and communication skills as they become acquainted with American culture is perhaps the most rewarding part of our work in the international office."

Nancy Georgiev is the Assistant Director in the OSAIE. She has a Bachelor's degree in music performance and German from DePauw University, and is earning a Master's in International Education from School for International Training. She is originally from Chicago, Illinois, but lived for the past four years in Sofia, Bulgaria where she taught English as a second language as a Peace Corps volunteer. Nancy loves traveling and learning languages and is fluent in German and Bulgarian. In Bulgaria, Nancy met her husband, and they are encouraging their son to speak both English and Bulgarian. She enjoys seeing the world through the eyes of international students and learning from students about their cultures and traditions, and encourages international students to be themselves. "One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." as Henry Miller once said.

Chrissy McCrary is the Program Assistant in the OSAIE. She loves living in Greenville and spending time outside. For fun, she likes to exercise, dance, travel to new places, spend time with her husband and family, and bake sweet things. According to Chrissy, most international students are very excited to be here and that excitement plays out in lot of different areas. She likes learning about their language and culture and watching them experience new culture, food, friends, and life. Her advice to international students is to make an effort to step out of your comfort zone. For the most part, students, faculty, and staff at Furman are going to be very interested in your life and background. Be willing to share and ask questions and you'll make friends quickly.

Cassie Klatka is the Administrative Coordinator in the OSAIE. She grew up in Connecticut and also spent two years living in Canada prior to relocating to South Carolina. Cassie is the newest member of the OSAIE staff, working both in the OSAIE office and the Center for Sustainability. Outside of her work at Furman, Cassie likes to travel and spend time with her husband and their three cats, Astrid, Jumper, and Sophie. She also volunteers at a local animal shelter.
**What you need to know about (J1, F1) Visa Regulations**

Now that you've been accepted to Furman, your visa application process starts. Obtaining a visa takes a few steps and demands you to meet several visa-specific requirements. Only if you meet all of the requirements and if you have paid the necessary fees, the U.S. consulate or embassy in your home country will accept your request. When you've successfully obtained a U.S. visa, you may want to use this document as a reference for any questions you may have.

**I-20 or DS-2019**

When the Furman Office for Study Away and International Education received news that you were accepted to Furman, they issued a DS-2019 (for J1 students) or an I-20 form (if you are an F1 student) for you. This document serves a proof that you were invited by Furman to come to the U.S. to work or study. Any time you leave the U.S., you must make sure that the travel authorization line on the document has been signed by someone from the Office for Study Away and International Education. A signature is valid for one year, so make sure to have your form resigned every year.

**SEVIS Fee**

Before you go to the U.S. consulate or embassy in your country, you must pay the SEVIS fee. You can visit the website at [https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp](https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp) and make the payment. Make sure you have your passport, credit card and DS-2019 or I-20 ready. At the consulate or embassy, you will need to show the receipt of the payment, which can be printed if you pay online or will be mailed to you if paid by check. SEVIS is the abbreviation for Student and Exchange Visitor Information System: a tracking and monitoring web-based database.

**Visa Application Fee**

Often, the U.S. embassy in your country will require you to pay an additional visa application fee, which you can either pay on the website of your home countries' embassy, or when you visit the embassy.

- See more information about applying for a visa on the travel.state.gov website by clicking here.

**Visiting the U.S. Consulate or Embassy**

Depending on the country in which you reside, you will either have to visit the U.S. embassy or consulate for your visa interview. When going to your appointment, do not bring electrical equipment, cell-phone, camera, or notebook. Both embassies and consulates are official U.S. territory, and you will be subject to a passport and U.S. customs control before you may enter the building. Receive instructions from the embassy or consulate on retrieving your passport with the new visa.
Arrival in the United States
Upon your arrival in the U.S., Customs and Border Patrol will issue you an electronic I-94 number. This number can be retrieved by visiting https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html. This is your proof of arrival in America and you will be required to use this number when applying for a Social Security Number in the United States, filing your taxes, and other government paperwork. Every time you enter the United States, you are issued a new number. Make sure to check for the updated number after returning to the U.S. from abroad on the same website. It is also very important that D/S is written on either your visa or I-20 by a CBP agent. This means that you are permitted to stay in the country for the duration of your program if maintaining status.

Off-Campus Employment
Due to the conditions under which you received your visa, you are not allowed to work off-campus. Fortunately, Furman offers many student employment positions on campus that are fully accessible for international students. These jobs include working in study labs, in the library, at a help desk, the student business center, the Furman bookstore, or assisting in an office. You are authorized to work up to 20 hours per week during semesters. During official university breaks (summer, winter) you may work up to 40 hours per week. For more information, visit the Student Employment Office (SEO), which is a division of the Financial Aid Office. The SEO is located in the Financial Aid Office in Room 101M in the Administration Building. If you have questions about your visa restrictions and working off-campus, visit the Office for Study Away. In some cases (for internships and post-grad positions) students can receive authorization from the U.S. Federal Government and the international student advisor. If you plan on working on-campus, make sure to contact the Office for Study Away and International Education so that they can assist you in getting a Social Security Card.

Keep in Touch With the OSAIE
The Office for Study Away and International Education is the office that is responsible for signing your documents and managing your data. By law, you must report the following to the office:

- if you change your address
- if you decide to stop attending Furman for any reason
- if you (plan to) transfer to another school
- if you need an extension of your program
- if you plan to travel outside of the US (you need a signature on your I-20 that is valid for twelve months)

Maintain Your Visa Status!
Please be aware of the importance maintaining status (violating visa regulations can result in you having to leave the United States immediately). If you have any questions visit the Office for Study Away in Trone Center 209 or e-mail us at InternationalEd@furman.edu. Make sure to be enrolled full time during fall and spring semesters, to obtain authorization before you work off-campus, to get an extension of your I-20 or DS-2019 before it expires and to update your address with the Office for Study Away and International Education.
We're on Facebook!
Visit the Furman University International Students page and join us if you haven't already! This page was created as an accessible platform for events, questions, and contact. On this page, you can post upcoming events, questions about coming to Furman or life at Furman, and you can request and offer items that you want to give away, trade, or sell. Do not hesitate to post on the wall!

FUISA
The Furman University International Student Association is a group of students, international and domestic, who meet throughout the year and plan events to promote international awareness. Throughout the year they host various events including an International Dance Show, a Food Festival, and many more. Being a part of this group is a good way to get to know other international students on campus and to join with other people who share an international perspective. Check out the FUISA webpage at furman.edu/international and click FU International Student Association.

Chinese Student Association
The Chinese student body recently formed the Chinese Student Association in 2012. This group serves as a way to connect with other Chinese students and domestic students who are interested in Chinese culture. The association is open to all Furman students. They host events throughout the year including a Chinese New Year Celebration, Chinese Dance Festival, and meet throughout the year for social gatherings.

The Association of Students Interested in Asia
The Association of Students Interested in Asia regularly meets to discuss cultural, social, as well as political issues in Asia. The activities include Japanese tea ceremonies, Chinese cooking classes, playing Asian games, excursions to Asian markets, fundraising, creating awareness of poverty throughout Asian countries, celebrating Asian countries' festivals and much much more. They welcome anyone of any cultural background to come celebrate, learn and enjoy Asian culture!

HOLA: Hispanic Organization of Learning and Awareness
HOLA is an organization that promotes Hispanic culture at Furman and in the community by providing an enriching experience for students through different events on campus. Some events are part of the Cultural Life Program (CLP) on campus and some are fun social events that anyone can participate in as well.
International Connection Program

If you’re worried about fitting in, don’t be! We have a way of pulling everyone in, and helping you make friends easily. Our International Connection Program is one of the ways we’ll help adjust to life in the United States. Before your arrival on campus, we’ll pair you with a current student from the U.S. who will share their insight about what it’s like to study at Furman. You’ll get to know each other online over the summer, and when you arrive for orientation, your student liaison will be waiting to meet you.

Your student liaison will help you get to know campus, identify student organizations, and introduce you to Greenville, S.C. Throughout the year, you can expect to share weekly emails and phone calls with your student liaison, as well as monthly meals in the dining hall.

Many events will be planned throughout your first-year on campus to bring together all international students and their partners as well as your small group of fellow international students and liaisons.

More information about the ICP can be found at [http://www2.furman.edu/academics/study-away-and-international-education/InternationalEducation/Pages/International-Connection-Program.aspx](http://www2.furman.edu/academics/study-away-and-international-education/InternationalEducation/Pages/International-Connection-Program.aspx).
Housing and Residence Life at Furman

Living on Campus
At Furman University, students live on campus for all four years, except when they are married or living with their parents. Because the campus was set up as a pedestrian campus, all facilities on campus are within walking-distance. This section will offer you some general information on campus housing, and explain to you which types of housing Furman offers. Furman's Housing & Residence Life department is located on campus at Estridge Commons (right next to North Village building A). The phone number for the office is (01) 864-294-2092.

Different Types of Housing
As most other colleges, Furman has separate housing arrangements for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and senior students.

Residence Halls
First- and second-year students live in 12 traditional residence halls. Students are housed mostly in double rooms, but there are some single and triple rooms as well. Some of the halls are suite-style, which means two rooms share a bathroom. Other halls are community bath, which means the hall shares a large bathroom. For students living in the residence halls, the Housing and Residence Life department gives considerable time and thought to matching roommates. Before the start of your next academic year, the Housing & Residence Life office will send you an e-mail with a roommate request form attached to it. You can find more information about each separate residence hall at [http://www2.furman.edu/studentlife/housing/Pages/default.aspx](http://www2.furman.edu/studentlife/housing/Pages/default.aspx).

The two primary areas of campus with residence halls are called Lakeside Housing and South Housing. Each is home to multiple residence halls for first- and second-year students. Each area also houses the RA Offices, where a student staff member is available from 9 a.m. to Midnight every day of the week.

Within each bedroom, a twin-sized bed, desk, desk chair, and dresser are provided for each resident. Cable TV, internet and telephone connections are provided in each bedroom as well. Laundry rooms are located within each building and are free for residents to use. In Lakeside Housing, residents have access to parlor rooms for study or meetings and a paint room available for painting or crafts. There is a basketball court and sand volleyball court located close to the South Housing residence halls.
Engaged Living: The First-Year Experience
Engaged Living is a residential learning community for first-year students where students live together in a residence hall, participate in one of four academic programs taught by Furman faculty, and have fun together while getting involved in campus life. The mission of the Engaged Living program is "To create and nurture a residential community that promotes student success, and fosters intentional engagement among students, faculty and staff."

Apartments
Generally, after two years of living in residence halls, students move to the North Village apartments labeled A through K. The 11 buildings accommodate 1020 residents in 220 private and 35 shared bedroom apartments. Walking and bicycle paths lead to the main areas of campus. In addition to the residential accommodations, the North Village Community Center, located in Building J, provides meeting space for groups ranging from 16 to 200. Within the community center, on the ground level, North Village Residents have access to a networked computer lab open seven days a week. This area also houses the North Village Office, where a student staff member (RA) is available from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

A North Village apartment houses four students in a spacious 1,200 square foot, fully furnished apartment. North Village apartments offer two or four bedrooms, a living room, a full kitchen, large patio/balcony, two large vanity areas, two bathrooms and lots of closet and storage space. Within each bedroom, a full-sized bed, desk, desk chair, and dresser/hutch are provided for each resident. An upholstered chair and sofa is provided in each living room along with four counter stools or chairs. Cable TV, internet and telephone connections are provided in each bedroom and the living room. Laundry rooms are located in the center of each building on the 200 and 300 levels. Picnic tables and built-in grills are scattered throughout the green space behind the buildings. Also provided in the area adjacent to North Village Building G, residents can access a large sand volleyball court, a basketball court and tennis courts.

The Vinings
Built in 2002, The Vinings at Duncan Chapel is a 196-unit apartment complex just outside the Timmons Arena gate at Furman University. Furman University is the owner/manager of this property that houses some fourth- and fifth-year students and faculty/staff, as well as the general public. The complex offers one, two, and three bedroom units and includes a clubhouse, swimming pool, parking garages, and storage units. The brick and siding structures of the Vinings, and the wrought-iron front gate accented with a water fountain, complement the campus architecture.
What should I bring? What should I buy?

On Furman's website, there is a list that states what you may and may not bring with you when you move into your residence hall or apartment complex. The list can be found here: http://www2.furman.edu/studentlife/housing/NewStudents/Pages/WhatToBring.aspx.

For international students however, it is advisable to not bring some of these items with you. They will add much extra weight to your luggage, and you can easily buy them in America. Which things can you buy in America?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things you can buy in America:</th>
<th>Things you should bring with you:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ sheets</td>
<td>✓ personal items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ pillow</td>
<td>✓ camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ towels</td>
<td>✓ clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ shower curtain</td>
<td>✓ shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ laundry basket</td>
<td>✓ photos of friends / family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ desk lamp</td>
<td>✓ your laptop computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ broom &amp; dust pan</td>
<td>✓ toiletries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ coat hangers</td>
<td>✓ important documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ cups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ coffee pot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 Tips for a Good Roommate Relationship!

- Be honest and open from the beginning.
- Address things when they are little.
- Respect your roommate's stuff.
- Be careful of who you bring into your room, and how often.
- Lock doors and windows when you are gone.
- Be friendly without expecting to be best friends.
- Be open to new things.
- Be open to change.
- Address things when they're big, too.

GOLDEN RULE! Treat your roommate like you’d like to be treated!

After living on campus for a few weeks, you will be provided with a roommate contract, in which you and your roommate(s) can each list your expectations and wishes, so that living together will be fun and enjoyable!
Things You Need To Know About...

Laundry

Washers, dryers, and ironing boards are available throughout the residence halls. In North Village, laundry rooms are located in the center of each building on the 200 and 300 levels. In the residence halls, laundry rooms are located on the bottom floor of each building. You do not need to pay to use these machines, but make sure you buy some laundry detergent!

Owning a Bike

At the beginning of each academic year, Furman organizes a bike auction, where bikes are being sold for very reasonable prices. Prices range between $25 and $75.

If you buy a bike at the auction (or somewhere else), don't forget to buy a good lock. Even though the campus is relatively safe, you do want to protect your belongings.

If you are not used to biking on steep terrain, make sure to wear a helmet. When you ride your bike, use your arms to indicate where you are going.

Obtaining a Driver's License

To apply for a SC driver's license, you must go to the Department of Motorized Vehicles (off campus) and provide the following:

1. Proof of Identity including date and place of birth. Your passport cannot be expired.
2. Current authorization to live, work or study in the U.S. An unexpired visa, valid Form I-20 or valid Form DS-2019.
3. Social Security Card or Letter from the Social Security Administration stating that you are not allowed to work in the United States.
4. Proof of SC residency - a letter from the University stating you are a student and listing your local address.

Eating at the Dining Hall (DH)

If you are a freshman, Furman requires that you buy a full meal plan. With this meal plan, you can eat breakfast, dinner and lunch in the Dining Hall, which is centrally located on campus. In North Village apartments, kitchens are equipped with a stove, a microwave and an oven, where you can prepare your own meals. In many residence halls, there is a community kitchen which can be used by any resident.

Furman's Dining Hall
Furman International Samuel about Studying at Furman

About Samuel
My name is Samuel Mao, and I am from China. I am a physics major, although this might still change. I also like to play soccer!

When I came to Furman...
Furman admissions officer Martha Kimmel came to my high school in China to give a presentation about Furman University. I also researched Furman.edu and ratemyprofessor.com thoroughly. I really wanted to get an idea about what Furman would look like, and I looked up some pictures online. I was really excited to go but scared at the same time!

What's it like to be an international student at Furman?
I really like being an international. If you get along with the international students very well, than they can feel like family. Hanging out with people from different countries is fun! The first two, three months here are hard, you want to make good American friends as well, but you don't really know yet how to talk to them. But eventually, I made a lot of American friends so that worked out well!

A typical day for Samuel...
I'll wake up and go to class, and have lunch in the DH afterwards. Than, after my afternoon classes I'll chill in the library, read some books or do homework and go to dinner. After dinner, you might hang out with friends for a while, or do some more studying for the rest of the night. I also play soccer with friends every now and then.

About academics at Furman...
Most professors here at Furman give lectures without a PowerPoint presentation, so I really had to learn how to take good notes. And I had to learn how to ask questions during class as well. Since I went to a non-regular high school, I really had to adjust to the academic intensity here at Furman. Here, your schedule is more fixed. Furthermore, I have never written so many essays in my life! I had never written an essay before I came here, so that was a big challenge. But I took the writing seminar (which every freshman is required to take) and that helped me a lot!

On being a mentor...
He was a mentor in the Legacy program during his sophomore year and was a mentee in this program last year. He says, “a buddy program can be really helpful, even for American students. Your mentor is always willing to help you; it's a really good way to adjust to a new environment. I even think that a buddy system should be mandatory, to drag international students out of their comfort zone, so that they will integrate better eventually.”

Social Life
In his sophomore year, Samuel was vice-president for the Chinese Student Association and has recently joined Men of Distinction; a volunteer service organization where at-risk kids are invited to campus to hang out with them. He works out at the Furman PAC and loves to play soccer or a game of basketball every now and then.

Samuel says "Be adventurous! Be curious!"
Welcome to the Trone Center!

When you are getting to know Furman's campus, the newly renovated Trone Center is a building you can’t miss! Located right by the Swan Lake, the student center is a one-stop-shop for many resources. Do you crave ice cream? Do you need a book? Or a notepad? Do you want to watch a movie? Make a cash withdrawal? Or get your mail? The Trone Center is your spot!

First Floor
Trone Student Center
8.30am – 10.00pm
P2X: Print and Post Express
8.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
PalaDen Food Court
11.00 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.
The Paddock Restaurant
11.00am - 2.00pm
5.30pm - 9.00pm
Barnes and Noble Bookstore
9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Starbucks Café
9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Second Floor
You will find many offices on the 2nd floor of the newly renovated Trone Center. The Office for Study Away and International Education is located in suite 209. Come check it out!

For all hours of operation (including weekends and holidays) please visit the Trone Center website.

Movies at the TC!
During the semester, Friday and Saturday nights are movie nights! Movies that haven't yet been released on DVD are shown in the Burgiss Theater. Entrance is $1 for students and $2 for the general public.
A Quick Guide to Cell Phone Service in America

Call Me!
Once you get settled and make friends in America, you'll want to be in touch with them! Since most international students buy mobile phones here, we've put together this short guide to make you familiar with the different options that you have when it comes to using and paying for a cell phone.

Providers
The major providers in America are T-Mobile, AT&T Wireless, Verizon and Sprint. You might want to opt for one of these, depending on the plan you choose. Since these providers are the largest ones, they usually offer the sharpest deal or price.

Different Types of Contracts
The first option is a so-called "pay as you go" plan, also called a month-to-month plan. This plan is the most flexible, as it allows you to buy a mobile phone without an American social security number, and you can start and stop using it every month. You will not have to pay a monthly bill, as you purchase your minutes and text-messages. For this plan, you need to buy a cell phone at the normal rate. However, if you bring your own cell phone and it is sim-lock free, you might be able to use a "pay as you go" plan on your own phone. If your phone is unlocked, T-Mobile or AT&T offers plans for you.

Your second option is a 2-year contract. If you are coming to Furman for four years, you might want to consider buying a cell phone with a contract. Often, you'll receive the phone for free, but you will need to make a deposit of approximately $200 because as a non-U.S. citizen you haven't established any credit records in America yet. Although this is costly, your contract will charge you less per minute and per text message. Eventually, this option might be cheaper if you are here for an extended period of time. In recent years, international Furman students have bought "family share plans" in small groups. All cell phone carriers offer "family share plans," which offer discounted rates for families and/or a group of individuals on a shared plan.

Costs
Plan prices differ based on several factors: the number of minutes you expect to use each month (the more minutes, the more expensive); if you opt to include a "SMS/text messaging package"; if you opt for a "data package" (if you have a PDA, a "data package" allows you a fixed number of minutes of internet access per month); and if you opt for an international calling plan. Cell phone carriers will require that you sign a contract (1-2 years), and pay a monthly rate for your plan for the duration of the contract. If you cancel your contract, there is usually a heavy penalty ($100-200).
Think Before You Sign!

American cell phone plans are very complicated, and vary considerably from carrier to carrier. Make sure to ask detailed questions about the various packages and know what is included in your overall cell phone plan, i.e. voice calling, SMS/text messaging, data/internet usage, and international calling/SMS messaging. Also, make sure to inquire about local and state surcharges, as well as cell phone insurance. **Local and state taxes and insurance can easily add an additional $20-25 to your monthly bill.**

**Ask for an estimate of what your total bill will be (including taxes and all surcharges) before signing a contract.** It is critical that you have a thorough understanding of what your monthly package includes, as overage charges are extremely expensive. If you accidentally go over your allotted monthly minutes or SMS messaging, your monthly bill could easily be (several) hundred dollars more than what you expected it to be.

**Helpful Websites**

- [www.boostmobile.com](http://www.boostmobile.com)
- [www.t-mobile.com/shop/phones/prepaid.aspx](http://www.t-mobile.com/shop/phones/prepaid.aspx)
- [www.tracfone.com](http://www.tracfone.com)
- [www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/splash/prepay.jsp](http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/splash/prepay.jsp)
- [www.virginmobileusa.com](http://www.virginmobileusa.com)

**As a general rule, if you are staying in the U.S. for an extended period of time:**

It is probably best to pay the deposit, and purchase a cell phone with a monthly plan **OR** You might consider purchasing a pre-paid phone for the interim period until you make friends with students in your program, and consider purchasing a “family share plan.” All cell phone carriers offer “family share plans,” which offer discounted rates for families and/or a group of individuals on a shared plan.

**As a general rule, if you are staying in the U.S. for a limited amount of time, a semester or one academic year:** It is probably best to purchase a “Pay-As-You-Go” cell phone, as the fees to break your contact (see below, the termination fees range from $100-200) may be reason enough to avoid signing a contract.

**FYI: Look at your freshman orientation schedule for the student resource fair.** Usually, a representative from Verizon Mobile will be present to inform and provide you with a cell phone contract. You can obtain information about the cell phones Verizon has to offer, and the different contracts and costs that accompany the phones.
FURMAN FASHION
What You'll See on Campus

Since you're from another country, you might be unfamiliar with the American culture of clothing. Fashion is usually a little different in every country, it might even differ from region to region or from state to state. To give you an impression of the American way of dressing for college, continue reading!

In general, Americans have a pretty laid-back style when it comes to clothes. What you might notice, is the fact that many students here at Furman dress very casually in shorts and t-shirts; the types of clothes that you would wear to the gym. For most American students, shorts, t-shirts and sweaters are staple pieces and you will see many students walk around looking like they are about to hit the gym!

However, for special events, like a dinner, a date, a football game or a dance, many students will dress up a little more! Girls will wear a dress or a pair of jeans with a top, whereas boys will usually opt for a pair of khakis or jeans with a plaid shirt or a fitting t-shirt.

In general, the American style may best be described as classic. Think: simple, laid back and cute. Americans are generally not very focused on fashion trends, although this is slowly changing. With the rise of popular media such as Facebook and Instagram, fashion becomes more available and a bigger part of our lives. Just find out what you like and what looks good on you, wearing those pieces will make you feel confident, and nothing looks better on a person than confidence!

No matter where you are from, you are encouraged to wear what you feel comfortable in.

There is no need to wear what other students are wearing. However, if you want to adapt to a more American style, just look around and ask someone who you think dresses nicely where they usually go to buy their clothes.
International Student **Cassandra** about studying at Furman

**About Cassandra...**
My name is Cassandra Chan, and I am originally from China. I'm a math major.

**About coming to Furman**
I received a lot of info from Furman before I came here, which was really nice. I was really curious about housing, what to pack, and meal plan options I would have. I think that students should look into the extracurricular activities that Furman offers before coming here. That way, you can enroll before registrations are closed or groups are full.

Furman is harder than I expected! I have been here over a year now, but I'm still getting used to the environment and the people. My English is not a problem, but I haven't made as many friends as I'd like to. The first months were a little intimidating. There are always students who are very aggressive in classroom discussions, and others are just so smart! The workload here is much higher than what I was used to during high school in China. Creativity and individual ideas are valued highly here. I try to do the best I can. And I feel really good about having become a good student!

**A typical day for Cassandra**
Well, it's all about the studies! I'll wake up, go to class, eat in the Dining Hall and go back to study. I don't usually go off campus. At night, I'll go to the PAC to exercise.

**Furman**

**Academics**
Most of the professors here are very nice and helpful. I feel comfortable to ask my questions if I have any. Some professors are more approachable and personal than others though. I always feel like relationships are more formal here, but that's because it is in English. In Chinese, I would be more casual.

The types of assignments here at Furman are more flexible than what I was used to in China. Here, you are often required to write essays, and often you can choose your own topic. In exams, you can always choose from multiple questions, which I really like.

**Challenges**
The biggest challenge is the academic challenge, combined with the fact that all your reading, writing and speaking is in English. I am spending a lot more time on my studies. Another challenge is the social challenge. In China, I had many friends and a busy social life, I wasn't that studious at all. Here, my study is more important than my social life!

**Social Life**
I'll be an orientation staff member for the fall orientation. I also joined the outdoor club, and I've become a member of the Asian club. I've been very lucky with roommates. We were in a triple bedroom and we had a good time. One of my roommates transferred, unfortunately.

**Furman's Beauty**
It is so green, the nature is so pretty and I just love the environment! Every time I walk on campus, I know I'll survive the academic part because the nature is so pretty. The only thing that bothers me is the amount of cars on campus, and the sense of isolation most International students experience because we don't have a car to get around.

**Cassandra's Advice**
Be brave and open, and don't be concerned about the small difficulties you may experience. Make friends with Americans and with internationals, and eventually you'll be fine. There is no shortcut to adapt to a new place!
Athletics at Furman

Once you arrive at Furman, you will discover the importance of athletics, which is common for most American universities. Historically, U.S. colleges have emphasized extracurricular activities, and especially sports. First and foremost, you will notice the popularity of college football, which is not only popular among students and locals, but nationwide. College football is serious business and many college football teams enjoy a wide popularity. Every university has a mascot for their team, and Furman’s mascot is the Paladin.

The following sports are practiced at Furman: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, track & field and volleyball. When the Furman Paladins play a home game (which means that they play at the Paladin Stadium), you will see hundreds, if not thousands of people in tow to see "their" Paladins play a game. Will you go see a game?

What is... GREEK Life?

Greek life is the fraternity and sorority community on campus. The terms "fraternity" and "sorority" describe groups of men and women who join together to offer fellowship, academic support, leadership training, participation in campus activities, service to the community and University, and preparation for future careers. They are referred to as Greek chapters because they are named according to the ancient Greek alphabet.

Greek life has a strong and rich tradition at hundreds of colleges and universities across the United States and Canada. It offers many opportunities to meet people, promote academic achievement, contribute to the community through service and philanthropy projects, and develop leadership skills.

Joining a fraternity or sorority is an excellent way to meet people and establish life-long friendships. Each organization plans social events to strengthen friendships within the chapter and allow for social interaction with members of other groups.

However, many domestic and international students do not join a sorority or fraternity. Joining can be very costly, as each fraternity or sorority requires dues that are not included in your tuition.
The PAC (Physical Activities Center)
As you will see, Furman is a very athletic university! Many students participate in college athletic sports such as football, soccer, basketball, baseball, rugby, swimming, cross country running, golf etc. Besides team sports, students have a complete physical activities center for their convenience. The Furman PAC offers its students and faculty a complete fitness center with an olympic size swimming pool, a basketball court, a gym, group exercises and personal trainers. The PAC is freely accessible to both students and faculty members.

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday
05.30 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Friday
05.30 a.m. - 08.00 p.m.

Saturday
08.00 a.m. - 06.00 p.m.

Sunday
12.00 p.m. - 08.00 p.m.

Check http://www2.furman.edu/sites/fitness/Pages/ for updated schedules!
International Student Yasmin about life at Furman

About Yasmin
My name is Yasmin. I was born in Spain, but we moved to America when I was 8 years old. We lived in Charleston, South Carolina, but one year before I came to Furman, we moved to Mexico. I am currently a sophomore, and although I wasn't sure if I wanted to be a biology or a chemistry major, I ended up picking chemistry. This summer, I'm doing research in the chemistry lab.

Coming to Furman
Wow, the process was overwhelming! I didn't realize that I had to schedule my interview to the consulate so early. I ended up being almost too late, and the whole process was just troublesome!

Being an international...
...is so much fun! International students should have an open mind when they get here. I think it is very important to be willing to try different things, and to hang out with different kinds of people. If you came all this way to study, why not have the full experience and interact with people from different cultures and backgrounds? I want to emphasize: try to become integrated! Become culturally familiar with American habits, because that makes life a lot easier! Because I don't have an accent, nothing really distinguishes me from the rest of the students. In some classes, there is a "burden" to represent your country, or the Spanish, European or South American perspective on things.

Academics at Furman
Furman is definitely hard. The course material is more challenging and courses are more in-depth. Everything goes by a lot faster, and exams are worth more, so exam periods are always pretty stressful for me. Professors here are just so knowledgeable, which can be intimidating at times. Nevertheless, they actually are very helpful. And it's good that they know you in person; it will positively affect your grade. I try to ask a question every period, and I sit in the front of the classroom, which I recommend to all international students.

A typical day for Yasmin
Usually, I'll get up and go to class. Then, I'll go to the Dining Hall to have lunch and head for the library. Usually I spend my afternoons there. Afterwards, I'll have dinner and go to club meetings or other activities. Sometimes, I'll go back to the library to do some more studying. I never studied so much and until so late at night as here at Furman!

Social Life
I am in a lot of academic clubs. I'm in the American Chemical Society (which I can recommend to all students who plan to major in Chemistry), I'm in the Biology Society and in the Pre-Med Society. I'm also treasurer of the Hispanic Organization for Learning Awareness (HOLA). I try to attend FUSA as well. There is also a new communications club, called The Cicero Society, of which I'm vice president. And I'm in the tennis club as well!

About Furman's International Students
Internationals are just so interesting! They have so many experiences to share. Internationals have more to say, I feel. They are already putting themselves out there and they have ambition, they want to succeed, which you can tell from the fact that they are here!

Yasmin's Advice
Do not underestimate the amount of work you'll have! Be prepared for examinations to be though. Keep up with the work and the reading you need to do and don't procrastinate! Try to see your professors on a weekly basis and try to finish everything before midnight. Get stuff done immediately, or you'll get lost!
Don't have a car? No worries!
Take the Greenlink bus!

One of the biggest transitions for most international students, is the fact that they cannot bring their car with them. In America, it is normal to own a vehicle from a relatively young age onwards, as public transportation is not very well developed in most urban areas. This is in contrast to many European countries, where public transportation is often very well organized and affordable. Until 2010, international students at Furman often complained about the fact that not owning a vehicle limited their options to leave campus. Biking to a destination off-campus would either be too far, too dangerous or the slopes of the hilly area were simply too steep to bike.

In 2010, Furman became part of the Poinsett-Rutherford bus route that is part of the Greenlink bus system in the area. Directly at the front gate, a bus stop is located where students can get in and out of the bus. It only takes five minutes to go to Cherrydale Shopping Center, where you’ll find a movie theatre, a hair salon, an ice-cream salon, several shoe stores, clothing stores such as Old Navy, TJ-Maxx, a Dollar Tree, a supermarket and several (fast) food restaurants.

How do I take the bus? Have $1.50 ready to insert in the machine in front of the bus. Tell the bus driver where you wish to go. If you need to make a transit, the driver will give you a transit card that allows you to get on the next bus without paying for another ticket. Insert the money and sit down. Simply pull the cord when the bus approaches your stop. That's all!

*This schedule was copied from the Greenlink website in March 2013. Please check the website for updates. The Greenlink does not operate on Sundays!*
Because at furman.edu/studentlife you'll find the official Furman Student Handbook in an online format. This handbook informs you about Furman's conduct procedures, the Student Conduct Code, Furman's housing policies, rules and regulations for student organizations and Furman's administrative policies.

Furthermore, the Student Life website offers you an oversight of the resources available for Furman students.

**Did you know that Furman has...**

✔ **...a Behavior Intervention Team?**

✔ **...a Counseling Center to help you adjust to the stimulating and stressful environment of college?** The counseling center is specifically trained to help students with various issues, such as adjusting to college, depression, eating disorders, stress, worry and anxiety issues, alcohol or other substance abuse, relationship or family problems, self-esteem issues etc.

✔ **...an on-campus health services center called the Earle Infirmary?** There are always nurses present to make initial diagnoses and if necessary, make a referral to the hospital.

✔ **...an on-campus Police Department?** The FUPO (Furman Police) fosters a safe and secure environment for the university community. They practice law-enforcement, security, traffic and parking regulation.

✔ **...a harassment, sexual harassment policy and a sexual misconduct code?** You can read it on the Student Life website.

✔ **Specifically for international students, Furman has the Office for Study Away, where students can go for help on various issues, whether related to visa or homesickness; you can knock on their door.**
**The Greenville County Swamp Rabbit Trail**
connecting **FURMAN** with **Downtown Greenville**!

**Explore Your Environment**
A great way to explore the direct environment of the Furman Campus, is riding the Swamp Rabbit Trail, a former railroad track that runs from the upper to the lower Greenville county. The trail measures 17.5 miles and connects Marrietta, Spartanburg, Furman University and Downtown Greenville. The trail is accessible for cyclists and pedestrians and closed to any form of motorized vehicles!

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**Trail Etiquette:**
- Please remember the rules of the road and trail.
- Trail users must stop at all road crossings.
- Stay right except to pass.
- Announce yourself when passing from behind.
- Dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Dog owners must pick up after their pets.

**Renting a Bike & More**
If you don't have a bike (have you tried the annual Furman bike auction in the Football Stadium?) you can rent a bike. In Traveler's Rest, Sunrift Adventures is located right next to the trail. Sunrift organizes "out and about" adventures, which vary from bike rides, to hikes to paddling and rafting. Visit their website at www.sunrift.com to find more info.
About Xing
My name is Xing! Originally, I am from Chengdu, a large city in the Southwest of China. I am a chemistry major.

When I Came to Furman...
I remember that I really didn't know what to expect going to Furman. I knew that there weren't many international students (although this is rapidly changing) and I was wondering what life at Furman would be like. Luckily, I integrated very quickly, and I love having both international and American friends here.

What's it like to be an international student at Furman?
It is absolutely great, I really enjoy life here. I do feel different from American students though; my lifestyle differs and I think that in general, Chinese are more quiet and reserved, and not as chatty as most American students. I already studied very hard in China, so I didn't have any trouble getting used to the Furman regimen. The thing that was really different here was the emphasis on extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs and going out. Americans have very busy social lives, that's a big difference compared to what most Chinese students are used to. I also think that as an international student, you have to get used to the American cuisine! Americans put cheese on everything!

A typical day for Xing...
I'll get up and go to the dining hall to eat breakfast there. Then, I'll usually have classes. After those, I go to the library to finish my homework and my reading assignments. I'll enjoy some free time until it's time to go to the DH again to eat dinner. In the evenings, I usually go to the gym to work out, or I'll hang with friends. Every week, I do ten hours of chemistry research. Sometimes, we use the evenings to work on group projects. During weekends, I usually hang out with friends, or watch a movie at Cherrydale's!

About academics at Furman...
I really had to adapt to the teaching methods here at Furman. In the beginning, I had a hard time understanding my professors because they talked so fast! Of course, my English improved quickly so that's no longer an issue. Generally, the reading load here in America is higher than in China. Instead of memorization, you are asked to form your own ideas about the material you read. Also, here you are encouraged to participate more in the classroom. I would advise international students to talk to their classmates, and to share their ideas with others.

Generally, the science classes were easier for me than the humanities classes. For science classes, my homework is always done in a second. For humanities classes, I have to read and write, which at first took a lot of time. Always ask your professor for help if you are struggling, here at Furman it is very normal to have an informal relationship with your professor.

Social Life
I am a member of FUISA, the Furman International Student Association, and I am a member of the American Chemical Society. I also visit the PAC regularly.

Xing says
"Don't be shy when you get here! Talk to your classmates, talk to your professors. In general, people are happy to help you and get to know you!"
The Importance of Speaking

Working successfully in English requires more than reading well. You must be skilled at four distinct tasks:

- listening
- speaking
- reading
- writing

Mastering all four takes practice. It helps to get skilled instruction, from courses in English as a second language (ESL).

To succeed in American universities, international students should be able to work comfortably in English. All your lectures, your class discussions, papers, and nearly all reading assignments will be in English. It is essential, then, that you learn the language well and feel comfortable taking notes, writing papers, and explaining your ideas in English.

Some international students are already fluent. For others, learning the language is still a challenge. It is a challenge worth meeting head-on and mastering. The better your English, the better you will perform in classes, papers, and exams!

If you speak English well, you will be able to:

- cope with long reading lists
- take good and selective notes
- participate in class
- express your own thoughts
- have good writing skills
- socialize with other people

Source: Charles Lipson
American Academics: GPA (Grade Point Average)

Grades!
Once your classes start at Furman, you will need to be thinking about your grades. Unlike most other countries, U.S. schools use the GPA measurement system to rank their students and to determine your average grade.

How is my GPA calculated?
Your GPA is calculated by averaging all your grades of all your classes at Furman. The purpose of such a system is that the school can compare and rank its students according to their Grade Point Average. By reviewing his or her students’ GPAs, a professor can easily rank his or her students according to high and low performance. Furthermore, the student with the highest GPA of all his or her classmates often receives the honor of being titled the class valedictorian; the student who delivers the farewell statement at his or her graduation ceremony.

A Letter-Based Grading System
American schools work with a letter-based system to grade their students. Grades vary from A+ for excellent work to F for inadequate work. In order to calculate your GPA, each letter grade must be converted to a number (see figure).

Calculating Your GPA
Generally an A=4.0, a B=3.0, a C=2.0 and a D=1.0. An F is worth zero grade points and pluses and minuses are calculated as fractions of the whole numbers. For example a B+ is often translated as 3.33 grade points, and an A- is 3.67.¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>94 - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>90 - 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>87 - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>83 - 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>80 - 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>77 - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>73 - 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>70 - 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>67 - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>60 - 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0 - 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although there is no need for you to calculate your GPA, (Furman will calculate it for you at the end of each semester) you may find that many American students do keep a very sharp eye on their GPA for various reasons. For example, if they apply for graduate programs or scholarships, they will need to provide their GPA, as well as other information.

If you want to calculate your GPA, you can use this website:
http://www.back2college.com/gpa.htm

¹ How Does a GPA Work? | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4619318_a-gpa-work.html#ixzz209ITqsFP
Money, Money, Money...
As you may have already discovered, paying for a quality education in the United States can be very expensive. But with proper preparation, you may minimize the costs of this extraordinary opportunity; scholarships can cover a large part of your tuition. However, in this section we explore money matters that you may encounter on a daily basis during your adventure in the United States.

Although Furman's campus is relatively safe, it is certainly not advisable to carry large amounts of cash around with you. You can always deposit any cash you brought with you to a bank account. Instead of bringing cash, you can also choose to bring a credit card.

U.S. Currency
United States currency is based on a decimal system, with one dollar ($1 or $1.00) equal to one hundred cents. Coin currency is used for amounts less than one dollar; the most common coins and their equivalencies follow:
- penny equals one cent or 0.01 dollars
- nickel equals five cents or 0.05 dollars
- dime equals ten cents or 0.10 dollars
- quarter equals twenty-five cents or 0.25 dollars

Slang: A dollar is often called a "buck."

Bank Accounts
Within the first few days of your arrival, you may want to open a checking account with a bank on or near campus. Usually, during the International Introduction, Furman invites a representative from a local bank (Wells Fargo) to open a bank account for you. You may directly deposit traveler’s checks for free in most cases, or arrange for a wire transfer from your home bank for a fee of about $35. Typically, you may make an unlimited number of additional deposits or withdrawals thereafter. You will most likely need some form of identification to open a checking account. The bank representative may ask you for your Social Security Number. If you do not have one, fill out an IRS Form W-8, which the bank can supply. Many college students appreciate the convenience of an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) card or a debit card. The card allows account holders to make deposits, withdrawals and other transactions at any time—24 hours a day—through machines located throughout campus and shopping districts. If you have an ATM card from a bank in your home country, ask whether the U.S. bank will honor it; some Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) cross national borders, while others do not.

Credit Cards and Debit Cards
One payment option accepted nationwide is the credit card. As a matter of fact, you may find it difficult to make certain purchases without a credit card. You need one to place an order by phone, to rent a car, or buy airline tickets in most instances. A credit card is also a good idea if you want to maintain good financial records, as your monthly statement will serve as a reminder of how you are spending money. Debit Cards (also referred to as “bank cards”) are another option. When you open an account, you will most likely get a bank card, which you can use to withdraw money from an ATM. You can also use it like a credit card to make purchases. Unlike credit cards, the money is instantly taken from your account, so if the money is not there it will be rejected.
Dating in College
When you are attending Furman for a longer period of time, it is only natural that you may meet someone that you get along with. Maybe you are feeling a bit lonely, or maybe your are feeling completely at home in America. Either way, dating is a very normal and logical aspect of college life, and it is perfectly fine to participate in the "world of dating" when you are here. So, how does dating in America work? It may very well be a little different from what you are used to in your home country. Please read this article to get an idea of dating in the U.S.!

Asking Out
Usually, a guy will ask a girl to go on a date with him. However, it is not uncommon for a girl to ask a guy out either. Things to do on a date are going out to dinner, a movie or a sports game. Although men's and women's roles are changing, it is common in formal situations for a man to open the door for a woman or help her with a coat, and a man may pay for a woman’s meal or ticket on a date. Most American men and women have learned to treat each other as equals, each deserving the same amount of respect and fair treatment in any situation. Going on a date with someone does not automatically imply that you will engage in a physical relationship; generally, a date is to get to know each other in an informal atmosphere.

Talking, Dating, Going Steady, Be Exclusive
In America, you'll find that there are different stages or forms of dating. At first, people will say "we are talking to each other," which means that you and the person you are dating are exploring the options for a relationship between the two of you. Dating means that you are going on dates, although it also means that you are not being exclusive. Often, American students will date several people simultaneously without it being an issue. Once you decide that you and the other person are in a relationship and not seeing other people anymore, you call that being in a relationship, or being boyfriend and girlfriend.

I Love You
If you are in love with someone, you may want to express your feelings. Please be aware that an American partner will not talk lightly about loving someone. To say "I love you" is a big deal and should be sincerely meant!

A Public Display of Affection (PDA)
If you're an international student coming from a socially conservative country, you may be surprised to see people freely express their sexuality. In the US, people are free to express their love for one another in public. They call it PDA, or Public Display of Affection. You'll see people hugging and kissing in public. This may surprise you at first, but it's accepted behavior and you'll get used to it soon. Try not to stare at people engaging in PDA, otherwise they may think you are strange.

Heterosexuality and Homosexuality
In many countries, it's rare to see same-sex couples in public. Some countries even have death penalty for homosexuals. In the U.S.
however, they respect individual rights and this extends to gay dating too. Gay people have the right to date just like straight people and they do it openly. So if you are a gay international student, don't fear to date another gay person. On the other hand, if the very idea of homosexuality revolts you, try to respect gay peoples' rights and don't make any derogatory comments about them. It's best you keep away from them if they make you uncomfortable. In the Southern states, the sight of PDA between two members of the same sex is definitely not as common as for example in San Francisco or New York City.

This is largely the same for interracial dating. Although it is becoming more widely accepted, the issue of race still is more sensitive in the South than elsewhere in the United States. Although it is not a rarity, you will be more likely to see same-race couples than interracial couples, even on Furman's campus.

The good news is that in spite of what many people think, there are good relations between people of different races in the US and other developed countries where most international students go. Discrimination based on Race and National origin is against the law in the US. In the rare case that someone does discriminate against you based on your race, they might face legal remedies.

Once you make friends in America, you can freely ask them about their experiences with dating and issues that you may have questions or concerns about. Generally, Americans will be very happy for you that you are pursuing the path of dating and possibly a relationship with someone. Do not be afraid to ask for information or advice!

Lastly, try to have fun while dating and just be yourself. You can date as many people as you like, until you find someone that you like and that likes you too.

As the saying goes, a girl will kiss many frogs before she finds her prince.

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**Dating in the Greenville Area?**
Here are some places that you could take your date to, or that you could suggest as places to go to.

**Cherrydale Point**
- Olive Garden Restaurant
- Ruby Tuesday
- Flat Rock Grille
- Cherrydale Cinema

**Downtown Greenville**
- Falls Park
- Wild Wings Café
- The Green Room
- Devereaux

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Happy dating!
Personal Hygiene Practices Americans Take for Granted

**Daily Bathing**
Whereas other cultures bathe every other day, American's value their daily bath and some even take multiple showers, especially in hot climates or after a workout. The 1940s are designated as the starting point were daily showers were made habit, so it is relatively new phenomenon. However, America's green movement is picking up a new type of personal hygiene rebel, as conserving water becomes more important.

**Dental Hygiene and Correction**
Americans love great teeth. Not everyone can afford braces, but the families who can, value smile correction as much as their actual, physical health. Children are taught to brush and floss twice daily, and people often bring toothbrushes with them on the plane, to work, and to school to brush between meals.

**Private Bedrooms and Bathrooms**
Outside of a college dormitory, most Americans prefer to have private bathrooms and bedrooms. Hotel rooms all have private bathrooms, and businesses with clean public bathrooms have started promoting their novelty services as a huge draw for Americans who don't enjoy "sharing germs".

**Clean Water**
Americans enjoy clean water and often purchase bottled water although in many states, tap water is perfectly drinkable. For Americans, the only time they are really confronted with a dangerous water situation is after a major natural disaster or a similar emergency situation.

**Deodorant**
Underarm odor is one of the biggest stigmas regarding personal hygiene in America, and can negatively affect your job interview, romantic life and ability to retain friends. Mainstream deodorants usually cost between $2-5 and are a standard application for most Americans.

**Laundry**
In America, you'll usually have a washer and a dryer in your apartment or building. At Furman, both laundry and dryer machines are conveniently located throughout campus. There is at least one laundry room in every building, although most buildings have two. You can choose from several programs: woolens, colours, whites and delicates. In America, it is normal to wash your clothes on a regular basis, as a groomed appearance is highly valued.

**Soap**
Americans use variations of soap daily to wash their hair, dishes, clothes, cars and hands. Like most Western countries, Americans generally value cleanliness. In America, you will often find "hand sanitizers;" little packets of germ-killing gel, which can keep your hands clean without using water.

Welcome to the South!

Welcome to America! Welcome to the South! Welcome to South Carolina! Welcome to Greenville! Welcome to Furman! These are some of the sentences that you will hear very often once you arrive. Why? Because they are part of Southern hospitality, a typical characteristic of the Southern Culture in America. Southerners generally will be very welcoming and friendly, and try to make you feel right at home. Welcome to the South!

Southern Cuisine
Southern hospitality is closely linked to the Southern cuisine. In the South, food is an important aspect of day-to-day life and culture. Specific Southern foods include fried chicken, grits, and barbecue. Often churches or social meetings will include a meal or dessert. In the South, it is important to cook enough for everyone who might be around at mealtime.

Southern Etiquette
Politeness and kindness are two other aspects that are very important to Southerners. Often, you will be called "Sir" or "Ma'am" and men will often open and hold doors for women. Very often, you will hear the words "Excuse me!" or "Pardon me!" People will often greet you saying "Hi, how are you?" A proper response would be "Good, how are you?"

Conservative
Southern culture has been and remains generally more socially conservative than that of the rest of the country. Because of the central role of agriculture in the antebellum economy, the Southern society remained stratified according to land ownership, and communities often developed a strong attachment to their churches as the primary community institution.

Religion
Part of the South is known as the "Bible Belt", because the position of the church and religion is much bigger in the South than elsewhere in America. Evangelical Protestantism and Catholicism are the largest Christian denominations in the South. However, most Southern states also have strong concentrations of Baptists, Methodists, Churches of Christ and other Protestant or non-Catholic fellowships. The city of Charleston, South Carolina, has had a significant Jewish population since the colonial period.

Southern Dialect
It has been said that Southerners are most easily distinguished from other Americans by their speech, both in terms of accent and idiom. However, there is no single "Southern Accent." Rather, Southern American English is a collection of dialects of the English spoken throughout the South.
South Carolina: Tourist Attractions

As a student at Furman, you'll be occupied with your academic program most of the time. However, if you have a weekend off, or maybe one of the official breaks, you may want to do some of the more touristy activities to get to know the state that you live in! Therefore, we've assembled the must-see South Carolinian attractions. Enjoy!

**Fast Facts - MYRTLE BEACH**

Distance | 250 miles from campus, 3.5 hour drive.
Perfect location for a beach getaway. Jump in the car with friends and enjoy the sun and the waves!

The latest addition to the Oceanfront Boardwalk and Promenade in Myrtle Beach is taking the fun and excitement of the Grand Strand to new heights. The SkyWheel Ferris wheel offers visitors a new perspective of the South Carolina coast. The ride towers nearly 200 feet above the ground, providing an unbeatable view of the Atlantic Ocean. It’s the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi River.

**Why not...**

Combine Myrtle Beach with Charleston!

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**Fast Facts - CHARLESTON**

Charleston is located on America's East coast, approximately 250 miles from Greenville. Driving to Charleston will take you anywhere between 3 and 4 hours: a reasonable distance for Americans. Charleston's name is derived from Charles Towne, named after King Charles II of England. Charleston is a beautiful city, where you can go shopping, to the beach, eat excellent Southern food, visit local museums or just walk around in.

The Old Slave Mart Museum in Charleston has reopened to rave reviews and is quickly becoming one of the most visited South Carolina tourist attractions. The museum recounts the story of Charleston's role as an urban slave-trading center during the domestic slave trade. You can also visit Fort Sumter, where the Civil War begun. Or visit College of Charleston, Charleston's downtown university that has a beautiful campus.
**Atlanta** is the state capital of Georgia, and the largest city within a 150-mile range from Greenville. Atlanta has approximately 420,000 residents and offers a wide variety of activities for people of every age. Have you ever wanted to taste the 400+ flavors made by the Coca Cola Company? Visit the Coca Cola Museum! Want to see shark? Visit the Georgia Aquarium. You can also visit the CNN headquarters, the zoo, a Hard Rock Café, you name it! Driving to Atlanta from Furman will take you about 2.5 hours, but be sure to take a break if you are driving by yourself! Atlanta is the cultural and economic center of Georgia, and it is known as a progressive city. You can visit www.atlanta.net/50fun to access a list of fifty fun things to do in Atlanta!

Tip from a former international: For an amazing view, visit the The Sun Dial Restaurant: it is a 360 degree rotating restaurant and cocktail lounge on the 73th floor of the Westin Peachtree Plaza.

**Savannah, Georgia** ("The hostess city of the South") was established in 1733 and was the colonial capital and the first state capital of Georgia. Today, Savannah is Georgia's fifth largest city and the third largest metropolitan area with approximately 140,000 residents. Savannah is an industrial center and an important Atlantic seaport. Savannah is known for it's great architecture and it's historic district and downtown area. The city has an orchestra, choir, several theaters, and the city's location offers visitors access to the coastal islands and the Savannah Riverfront, both popular tourist destinations. Savannah is 265 miles from Greenville, which equals a little over a four-hour drive.

Visit savannahvisit.com/50reasons to find out why you want to go visit Savannah!

**Asheville**, North Carolina is a city nestled between the peaks of the Appalachian Mountains. It is a vibrant city filled with stunning scenery, eclectic eateries and a unique history spanning hundreds of years. Asheville offers multiple summer music festivals like Shindig on the Green and Bele Chere. Asheville is also a great place for outdoor adventures (think: zipping across mountaintops or riding river rapids). Asheville is furthermore positioned along the Blue Ridge Parkway, a beautiful and scenic parkway.

Asheville is only 65 miles away from Greenville, and driving there will take up about an hour.

Visit exploreasheville.com for more information!
South Carolina's Climate
What to expect, weatherwise!

Climate
South Carolina has a so-called humid subtropical climate, which is characterized by hot humid summers and winters that aren't extremely cold. Especially during summer and fall months, the state is subject to tropical cyclones and afternoon thunderstorms due to the heat and the humidity. South Carolina also knows tornadoes, which occur mostly during the spring months with a second peak in November.

During the summer, it can be very warm and humid in South Carolina! 80-100 Fahrenheit (or 25-35 Celcius) is normal. During winter, temperatures will drop to 30 fahrenheit, which is approximately 0 Celcius.

South Carolina is prone to tropical cyclones from June through to November. They are usually a category 1-3, sometimes 4. Rainfall and spin-up tornadoes are the main effects of such tropical cyclones.

South Carolina averages around 64 days of thunderstorm activity per year, mostly during summer. The state experiences around 14 tornadoes annually.

Useful items to bring or buy:
- rain boots for rainy days
- umbrella (or rain coat)
- winter coat for cold days
- summer coat for fall days
- hat or cap for sunny days

Precipitation
Most rain falls in March and the summer months. Snowfall in South Carolina is not very excessive. Usually, less than 1 inch of snow falls every year, although this might be a little more in the inlands.

Tip from a former international student ★ Especially in the fall, learn how to layer clothing! If you have an early morning class, it'll be around 40-50 degrees. But by the time you head home, it'll be 70 degrees!
### 2014 FALL SEMESTER (70 CLASS DAYS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International students arrive to Greenville Spartanburg airport</td>
<td>August 13 (Wed.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New resident students arrive after 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>August 22 (Fri.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation for new students</td>
<td>August 22-25 (Fri.-Mon.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus housing opens for returning students</td>
<td>August 24 (Sun.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Dining Hall Meal served - dinner</strong></td>
<td>August 24 (Sun.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>August 26 (Tues.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
<td>September 1 (Mon.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Convocation (10:00 a.m.)</td>
<td>September 4 (Thurs.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Weekend</td>
<td>September 26-28 (Fri.-Sun.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td>October 11-14 (Sat.-Tues.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>October 15 (Wed.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>October 24-26 (Fri.-Sun.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Last Dining Hall meal served - lunch</strong></td>
<td>November 25 (Tues.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
<td>November 26-30 (Wed.-Sun.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Dining Hall meal served - dinner</strong></td>
<td>November 30 (Sun.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes end</td>
<td>December 9 (Tues.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Days</td>
<td>December 10,13 (Wed., Sat.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>December 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 (Thurs.-Fri., Mon.-Wed.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Dining Hall meal served - lunch</strong></td>
<td>December 17 (Wed.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus housing close at 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>December 18 (Thurs.)</td>
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### 2015 SPRING SEMESTER (68 CLASS DAYS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation for new students</td>
<td>January 9 (Fri.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus housing opens at 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>January 10 (Sat.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Dining Hall meal served - brunch</strong></td>
<td>January 11 (Sun.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>January 12 (Mon.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</td>
<td>January 19 (Mon.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>March 2 (Mon.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Dining Hall meal served - lunch</strong></td>
<td>March 6 (Fri.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>March 7-15 (Sat.-Sun.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Dining Hall meal served - dinner</strong></td>
<td>March 15 (Sun.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Break</td>
<td>April 3-April 6 (Fri.-Mon.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
<td>April 7 (Tues)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday course meetings conducted</td>
<td>April 16 (Thurs.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Furman Engaged!</strong></td>
<td>April 17 (Fri.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes End</td>
<td>April 28 (Tues.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Days</td>
<td>April 29, May 2 (Wed., Sat.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>April 30, May 1, 4, 5, 6 (Thurs.-Fri., Mon.-Wed.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence halls close at 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>May 7 (Thurs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Dining Hall meal served - lunch</strong></td>
<td>May 9 (Sat.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>May 9 (Sat.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Village &amp; Greenbelt Community close at 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>May 10 (Sun.)</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL: 138 Class Days**
Glossary of American Academic Terms *

**Academic Advisor**
—Most colleges assign students an advisor to help them with problems relating to specific classes, changing majors, or curriculum requirements.

**Accreditation**
—The process by which colleges and universities are granted approval by an official review board, indicating that the institution has met certain requirements.

**Alumnus, Alumni, Alumna, Alumnae**
—These Latin words refer to graduates of a college or university.

**Associate Degree**
—Awarded after completing a program of study at a two-year college.

**Bachelor's Degree**
—Awarded after four years of study at a college or university. Also referred to as an undergraduate degree.

**Campus**
—A college or university's buildings and grounds.

**College/University/School**
—These terms are often used interchangeably, as in "Where do you go to school?" or "Where do you go to college?" Differences among the terms do exist, however. Colleges primarily award bachelor's degrees and concentrate on providing a general, or liberal arts, education. Universities tend to be larger and award advanced degrees (master's and doctoral degrees) along with bachelor's degrees. In addition, portions of a university are also referred to as colleges, as in the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Co-op**
—Also known as cooperative education, this opportunity partners education and industry to apply the theories taught in the classroom to the workforce. When taking part in a co-op, you will usually work during the semester or quarter in order to gain valuable on-the-job experience and typically to fulfill a requirement in your program of study.

Credit Hour
—A unit of study at a college or university, usually represented by one hour of class per week per term. Most classes are worth three credit hours and meet for three hours per week. At Furman however, most courses are four credit hours.

Culture Shock
—Confusion or anxiety caused by sudden exposure to a new culture. (See page: 5, 21 and 25)

Doctoral Degree
—The most advanced degree, awarded after three to five years of additional study following completion of a master's degree.

Residence Halls
—Residence halls are where students live in on campus. Each room generally accommodates two students. Bathrooms can either be private or shared among a number of students. Students living in dorms eat their meals at a central location on campus or in on-campus restaurants. Some dormitories are single sex, which means all male or all female residents live in them. (See p. 9-11)

Extracurricular
—This term describes activities that take place outside the classroom, including athletic, social, and cultural events (sometimes referred to as co-curricular). (See p. 12, 15, 19, 20, 21, 24)

Faculty
—The teaching staff of a college or university. The term does not refer to a department within the university, as it does in some countries.

Final Exam
—The test at the end of the term. Most courses also have midterm exams in the middle of the semester or quarter.

Financial Aid
—Money supplied by a source other than the family to help pay for education costs. Financial aid may be "need-based" or awarded based on the financial need you possess. It can also be "merit-based" or awarded for special talents or achievements you've made.

Fraternity
—A social or honorary club of male students. Members often (although not always) live in a fraternity house. (See p.19)

Freshman
—The first year of undergraduate study.

Grade Point Average (GPA)
—A student's average for the semester or quarter. Letter grades (A, B, C, D, and F) are converted to points (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) and averaged to determine the GPA. (See p. 27)

Hate Speech
—A term for speech intended to degrade, intimidate, or incite violence or prejudicial action against someone based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. The term covers written as well as oral communication. (p.23)

Homestay
—A living arrangement in which an international student lives with an American family in the home. These opportunities immerse international students in the English language and allow them a unique perspective on the way of life in the United States.

I-20 Immigration Form
—The certificate of eligibility for the F-1 student visa. You will need this form to obtain your visa and to enter the United States. (See p. 6-7)

Internships
—Practical work or training experience that allows students to apply what they have learned in class. Generally, you'll participate in an internship when you are not taking classes—perhaps during the summer.

Junior
—The third year of undergraduate study.

Major
—Chosen area of academic specialization.

Master's Degree
—An advanced degree awarded by a university following completion of studies beyond a bachelor's degree.

Minor
—A secondary area of academic specialization.

Police officers
—Members of an organized police force who are sworn into that post to serve and protect all citizens. Police officers carry guns; security guards do not. The Furman Police (FuPo) headquarters is located at the back of the McAlister Auditorium.

Professor
—A teacher at a university or college.

Public/Private
—Public schools receive public funding and are generally less expensive than private schools for in-state students, which do not receive public funding. Public schools are also referred to as state schools.

Semester/Quarter/Term
—Most colleges and universities divide the school year into two semesters (fall and spring), while others have three slightly shorter quarters (fall, winter, and spring). "Term" is the general word for either a semester or a quarter, as in "fall term."
Senior
—The fourth year of undergraduate study.

Social Security Number
—A nine-digit identification number, assigned by the U.S. government, that citizens provide to employers for tax purposes. (See p. 6-7, 13)

Sophomore
—The second year of undergraduate study.

Sorority
—A social or honorary club of female students. Members often live together in a sorority house. (See p. 19)

Study Abroad
—A program in which students attend school in a country outside the United States and receive academic credit toward their major. Visit colleges' Web sites to determine whether they offer study abroad. For more info, visit the Office for Study Away & International Education.

Syllabus
—An outline of topics to be covered in a course for the duration of the semester or quarter.

Teaching Assistant
—A graduate student who handles classroom instruction duties for the professor.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
—A standardized test required by most schools. The test measures a student's proficiency in the English language.

Transcript
—Official record of a student's academic courses and grades received.

Tuition
—The cost of attending classes at a college or university. Tuition does not include room and board or other living expenses.

Visa
—Official designation on a passport that the holder is authorized to travel or live abroad. (See p. 6-7)