



SPRING OPTION

Spring Option students begin their college careers in January rather than September. The program is a perfect fit for the independent student who wants to take a breather between high school and college, but who also sees that time as an opportunity to pursue a distinctive intellectual, civic or social experience before enrolling at F&M. Each year, 48 students are chosen to enroll at F&M via Spring Option.

Spring Option students have tackled a wide variety of challenges during their “gap term”—the months of September through December. Here is a partial list of their activities and experiences:

- Worked at schools and clinics in Ecuador as part of Thinking Beyond Borders' Ecuador Gap Program
- Volunteered in a hospital in the Republic of Georgia
- Kayaked, rock-climbed and explored New Zealand at National Outdoor Leadership School
- Studied abroad in Florence, Italy
- Studied at the French Culinary Institute in New York City
- Enrolled in an 81-day Outward Bound trip
- Traveled to Costa Rica for a Spanish Language Immersion Study
- Secured a pilot's license
- Lived in Israel

“ I spent a month in Puerto Quito learning about the education system. The trip was life changing. I learned about Ecuador in a way you couldn't in a classroom, I experienced life headfirst and I improved my Spanish. The number of new things I experienced is countless.”

—Augusta Rapoza



Here is a sampling of the programs our Spring Option students have participated in over the years:

FOR-CREDIT PROGRAMS

Institute for American Universities

Aix-en-Provence, France

■ www.iaufrance.org

Saint Andrews University, Scotland

Freshman Semester Abroad

■ www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/ug/int/northamericanapplicants

Thinking Beyond Borders

Ecuador Gap Semester

■ <http://thinkingbeyondborders.org/program/gapsemester/ecuadororientation.html>

“ For three weeks I camped around Europe. Seeing so many different countries and cultures was awe-inspiring. Choosing Spring Option allowed me to not only think, but also to live, outside the box. And I knew that when I arrived at F&M, there would be a group of students who shared, if not my experience, something like it. ”

—Judith Stapleton

NON-CREDIT PROGRAMS

The School for Field Studies

Environmental study-abroad program

■ www.fieldstudies.org

Rustic Pathways

Travel programs focusing on community service, life skills, language and adventure

■ www.rusticpathways.com

CIEE

Language immersion, home stays with families abroad

■ www.ciee.org

Proyecto ASIS

Spanish classes, cultural immersion and volunteer work with animals in Costa Rica

■ www.institutoasis.com

Oxford Program for Advanced Studies

Academic work in Oxford, England

■ www.oasp.ac.uk

Cross Cultural Solutions

Volunteer abroad (described as “mini Peace Corps”)

■ www.crossculturalsolutions.org

Outward Bound

Wilderness expeditions

■ www.outwardbound.org

National Outdoor Leadership School

Wilderness expeditions

■ www.nols.edu



Visit www.fandm.edu/apply/spring-option