

THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



CROATIA



A GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR YOUR
SFS PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS
DEPARTMENT

AGENDA

- INFORMATION ABOUT CROATIA
- LIFE ON PROGRAM
- PACKING
- HEALTH & SAFETY
- TRAVEL & NEXT STEPS
- CONTACT US





CROATIA

LOCAL CULTURE

LANGUAGE

Official language is **Croatian**. English is spoken, but interactions may be limited without basic Croatian.

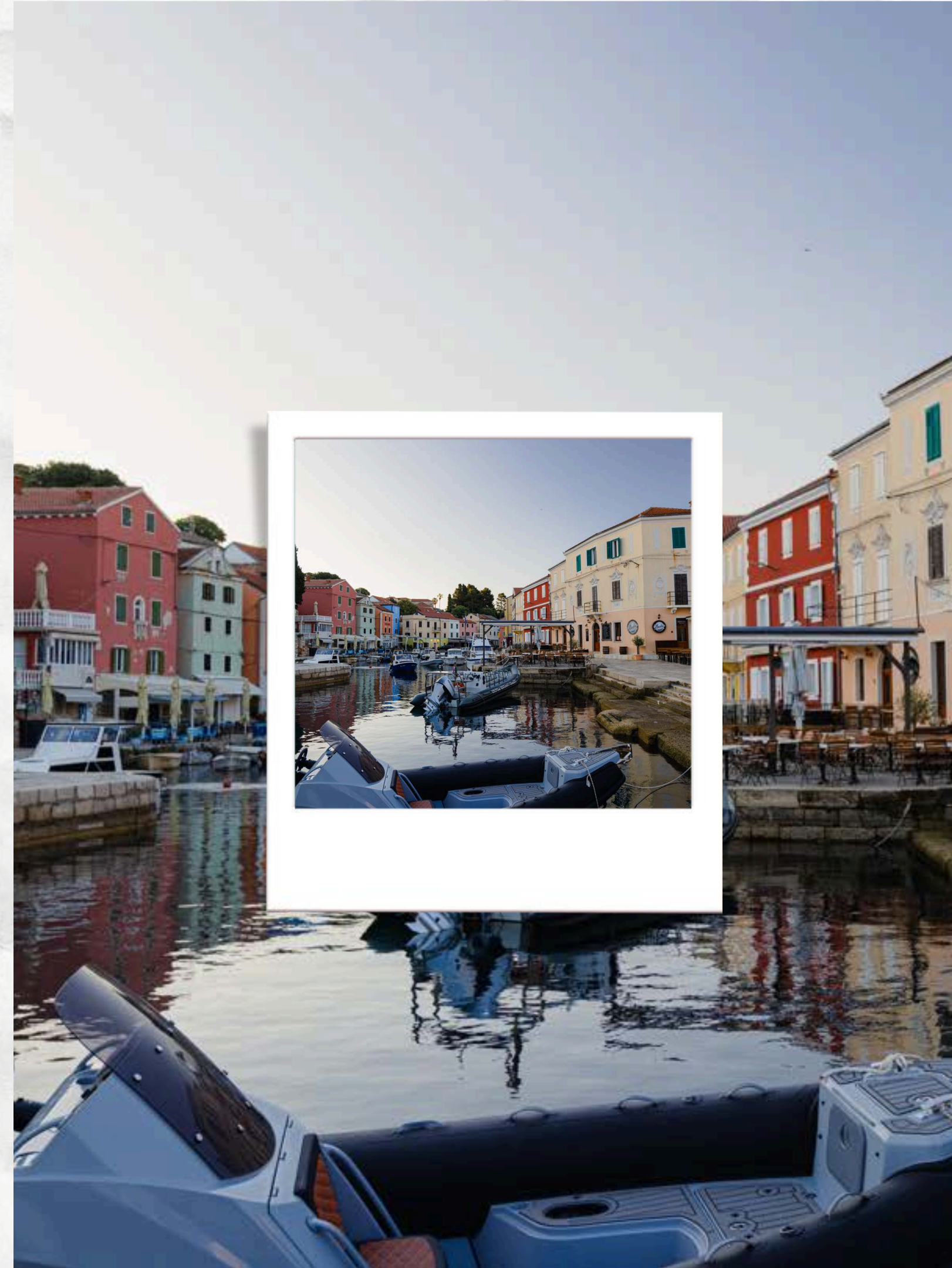
RELIGION

Catholic (79%)

LGBTQIA+

Croatia bans all discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

On Lošinj Island, there is no formal LGBTQ+ community. Please refer to the LGBTQ+ Resource Guide for more information.



AN OPEN MIND IS KEY

- You chose to study abroad and embrace a new culture, both for its positives and negatives.
- You may feel frustration, but it is important to keep a positive mindset.
- You are not here to judge or change, but rather to learn and experience.



LIFE ON PROGRAM

HOUSING, SCHEDULE & FOOD

FIELD STATION

CAMPUS

- Located in the village of Veli Lošinj (population ~1,000).
- 5-minute walk to downtown.

HOUSING

- Six rooms, four people per room in twin bunk beds. Shared closet and desk. Each room has AC (heating/cooling) and a fan.
- En-suite bathroom with a hot-water shower and a Western-style toilet. Washers and dryers are available on campus.

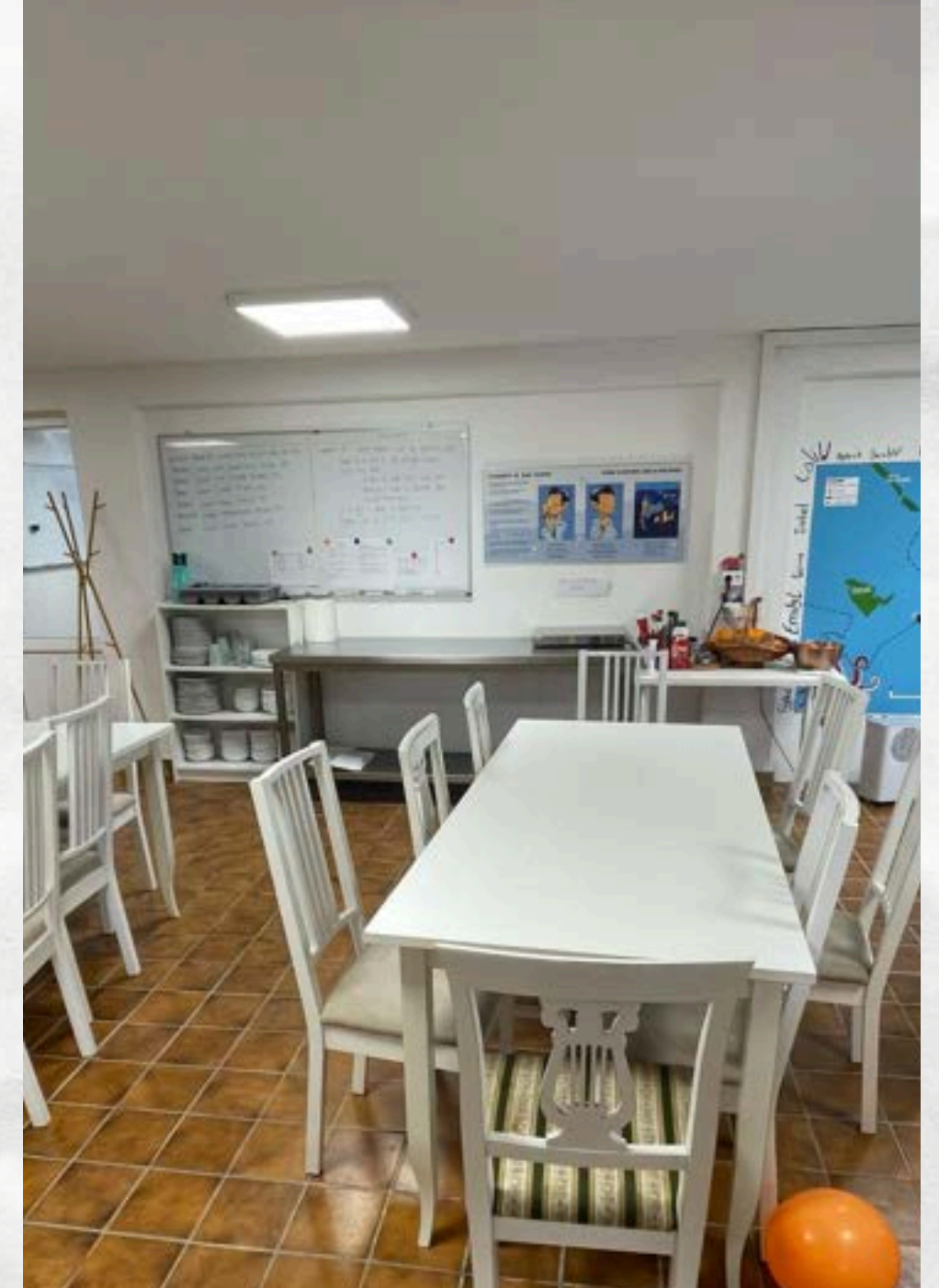
AMENITIES + MORE

- Student lounge with games. Classroom with library. Computer lab. Small student kitchen and dining room. Open-air terrace.

COMMUNITY LIVING

- Community living requires compromise and teamwork. You will work, eat, and relax together; personal time is extremely limited. Chore rotations will be assigned once on program.

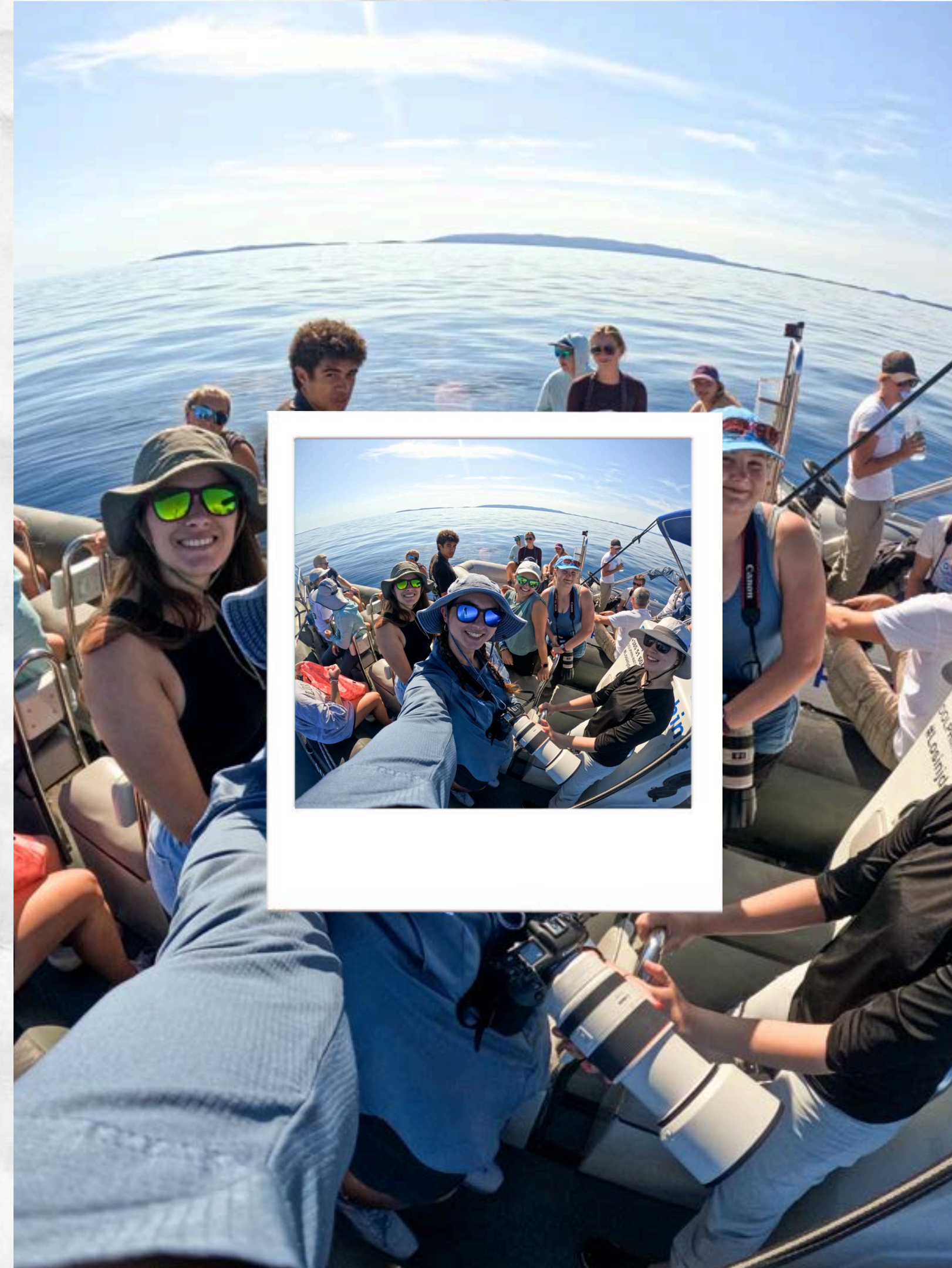
THE CENTER FOR CONSERVATION OF MARINE MEGAFAUNA



CLASSROOM STANDARD

- Not an "easy A"
- Our coursework and research impact the community
- Grades must be earned

Schedule is high-intensity. Manage your time efficiently and use your days off to recharge. Use the utmost level of respect in your interactions with staff.



DAY IN THE LIFE



- Days are highly structured
- Typically, 7:30am - 4:15pm
- Some days are 100% in the field, while others are 100% classroom time
- Expect over half of your program time to be spent covering classroom-based theory
- All activities are mandatory- including group meals!
- We work around our partners, weather, and other circumstances, so you should expect the schedule to always be changing. It's important to have flexibility and a positive mindset!



PROGRAM POLICIES

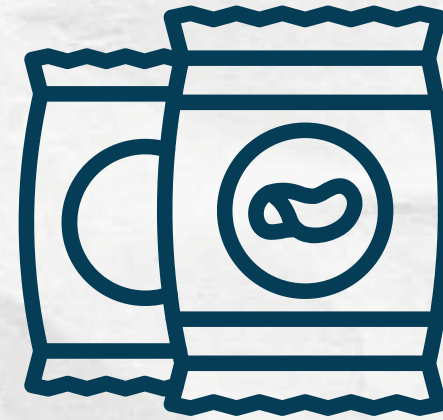
- ✓ **Curfew enforced**
- ✓ **No smoking on campus (no e-cig)**
- ✓ **No non-SFS guests without staff approval**
- ✓ **Sign out and buddy system**
- ✓ **No cannabis products (*)**

(*) This includes medical marijuana and some types of CBD oil - contact Student Life before bringing any CBD products

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



MEALS



SNACKS



FRESH WATER

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner Example: Meat, fish, eggs, pasta, vegetables, and fruit.

Snacks may include tea, coffee, granola bars, yogurt, fruit, and toast with jam or other spreads.

Students receive three meals per day on campus, including on weekends. If they wish to eat out, they simply need to inform staff.

SFS can support most dietary needs, but the variety of food will be extremely limited based on local availability and cost.

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding a small, dark-colored turtle with their hands. The person is standing on the white deck of a boat. In the background, there is a body of blue water and a white rope railing. The text "PACKING" is overlaid in large white letters, and "WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING" is in a dark blue box below it.

PACKING

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING



CURRENCY

- Euro (EUR)
- Cash and debit/credit cards
- ATM access
- Notify your bank



CLIMATE

- September to November and March to May are mostly sunny with occasional rain
- Average temp: 45-75°F

WHAT YOU SHOULD **BRING**

Please do read your **field guide** for an itemized look!



CLOTHING

**TOILETRIES +
MEDICATION**



**FIELD
GEAR**



ROOM NECESSITIES

FOR CLASSROOM



PACKING CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

The center is in town. You can wear casual outfits, but bring formal or polished clothing for going out and special occasions.

Be mindful that nudity is common at the beach.

TECHNOLOGY

Laptop with USB port
MS Office (or equivalent).

Electronics Protection
Voltage is 230 (need converter). Plug type F (need adaptor).

Unreliable Internet
Download podcasts, music, movies, + more.

LUGGAGE

SFS has no luggage limitations, although your airline(s) might!

You will be responsible for transporting your own luggage.

A scenic coastal town with a prominent church tower and turquoise water. The town is built on a hillside overlooking the sea, with a large, light-colored church tower featuring a cross on top. The water is a vibrant blue, and the foreground shows a rocky shoreline with some greenery. The sky is clear and blue.

HEALTH & SAFETY

MEDICAL CARE & MEDICAL REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS



Sea urchins and jelly fish



Smoking is very common



Big hills in town, lots of incline/decline



Pine trees (in case you are allergic)



Uneven pathways/walkways (*)



(*) Pedestrians don't have the right of way, so be careful when crossing the streets.

MEDICAL CARE IN COUNTRY

BASIC MEDICAL

Emergency Room, General Practitioner and other services located in the Community Health Clinic 10 minutes away.

ADVANCED MEDICAL

Clinical Hospital Centre Rijeka is up to 4 hours away by car; specialist care may require an overnight mainland trip.

ROUTINE VISITS

Routine medical visits are not feasible while on program.

MENTAL HEALTH

Scheduled telehealth appointments with mental health providers may not be feasible.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES & OUTBREAKS

SFS follows CDC and host-country health guidelines. Entry and pre-departure health requirements vary by country and may change based on current outbreaks. Students should review current travel and health guidance before departure, and SFS will notify students of any major updates.

Students who test positive for, or develop symptoms of, communicable illnesses may need to isolate. Close contacts may be asked to test or monitor for symptoms. Because supplies may be limited locally, students are encouraged to bring rapid tests and high-quality masks.

Students are responsible for any medical or isolation-related costs incurred abroad and should confirm, before traveling, that their international health insurance covers communicable diseases.



MEDICAL REVIEW



Complete your medical paperwork within 6 months of departure & before the due date



Schedule medical appointments in advance. SFS recommends consulting with a travel clinic in addition to your primary care physician



No student is permitted to participate on an SFS program until medical review has been completed



Obtain prescription medication prior to your departure



A scenic view of a coastal town, likely in Croatia, featuring colorful buildings (yellow, white, and red) lining a harbor. Several small boats are docked along a stone pier in the foreground. The water reflects the buildings and the sky. A large, white, serif font text "NEXT STEPS" is overlaid across the center of the image. Below it, a dark blue rectangular banner contains the text "VISAS, FLIGHTS, & PAPERWORK" in white, sans-serif font.

NEXT STEPS

VISAS, FLIGHTS, & PAPERWORK

VISAS AND FLIGHTS

Travel Instructions sent at least 2 months prior to departure on buying your flights.

US Citizens do not need a visa for a stay of up to 90 days within Schengen Countries
(European Schengen Tourist Visa Waiver)

Upon arrival in Veli Losinj, SFS staff will assist semester students in applying for a Temporary Residence Permit granting you residential student status to supplement your Tourist Visa Waiver for the remainder of your program.

Airport Letter sent 1-2 weeks prior to departure with arrival instructions, what you need to enter/carry with you, current entry requirements, and emergency contacts.

AT THE AIRPORT



CUSTOMS & IMMIGRATION

Have your passport ready!

LUGGAGE

Afterwards, collect your luggage and leave the security area.

FINDING SFS

Find the designated meeting spot and look for SFS signs!

WAITING FOR OTHERS

You will need to wait for the rest of your cohort to arrive before heading to the center.

NEXT STEPS

TRAVEL

- Apply for or renew your passport-must be valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the European Union
- Complete Visa Materials
- Book your flight

SET EXPECTATIONS

- Review the SFS field guide, financial planner, syllabus, and policies
- Talk with your family and friends about a realistic communication plan while you're in the field

MEDICAL

- Schedule all medical appointments
- Make a plan with specialists and/or mental health providers (if needed)
- Obtain prescription medication for the entirety of your program (if needed)
- See travel clinic (if desired)
- Schedule vaccinations (if needed)

FINANCES

- Pay for your program
- Apply for financial aid (if desired)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS



@THESFS
@THESFS_CROATIA

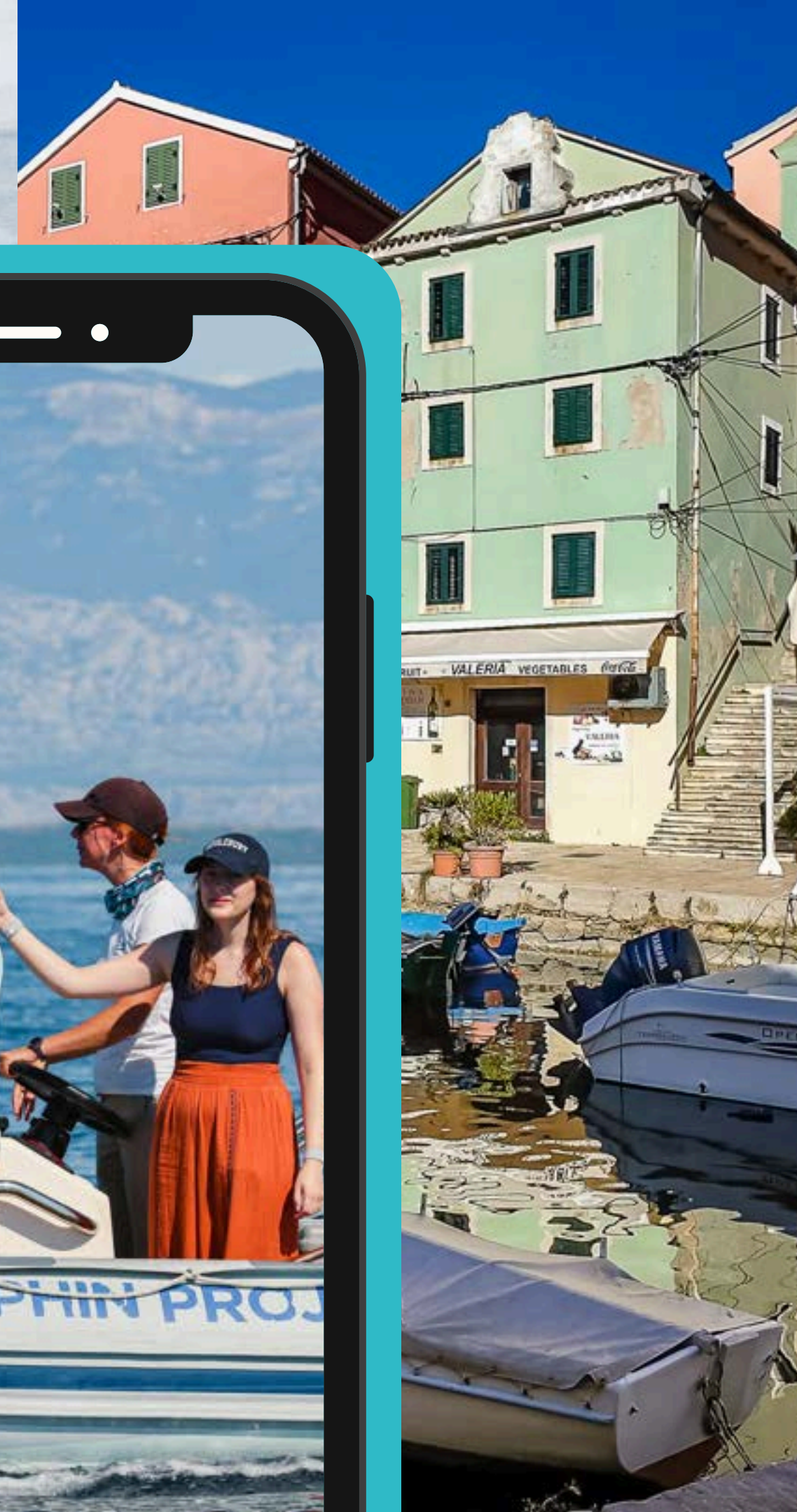
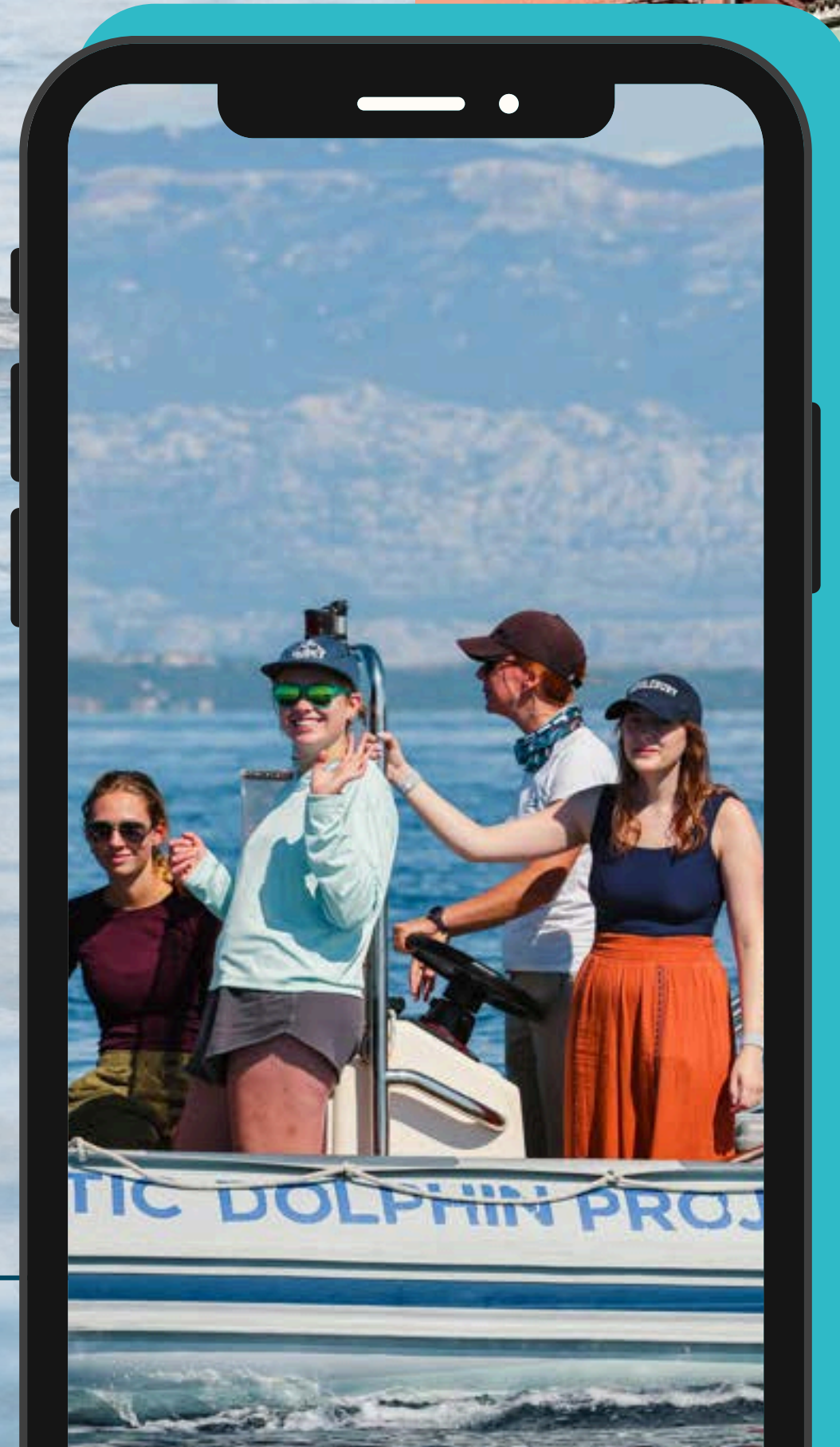
Tag us in your
posts @thesfs!



THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES





QUESTIONS?

Here is how you can get in touch:

MEDICAL + SAFETY

studentlife@fieldstudies.org

BILLING + FINANCIAL AID

billing@fieldstudies.org

ACADEMICS

academics@fieldstudies.org

GENERAL QUESTIONS

admissions@fieldstudies.org