

THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



PERU

A GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR YOUR
SFS PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS
DEPARTMENT

AGENDA

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





PERU

LOCAL CULTURE

LANGUAGE

Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, and 47 native languages

RELIGION

Major religious groups are Catholic (76%), and Protestant (14%)

LGBTQIA+

Same sex relations are legal. However discrimination is widespread and culturally sanctioned



AN OPEN MIND IS KEY

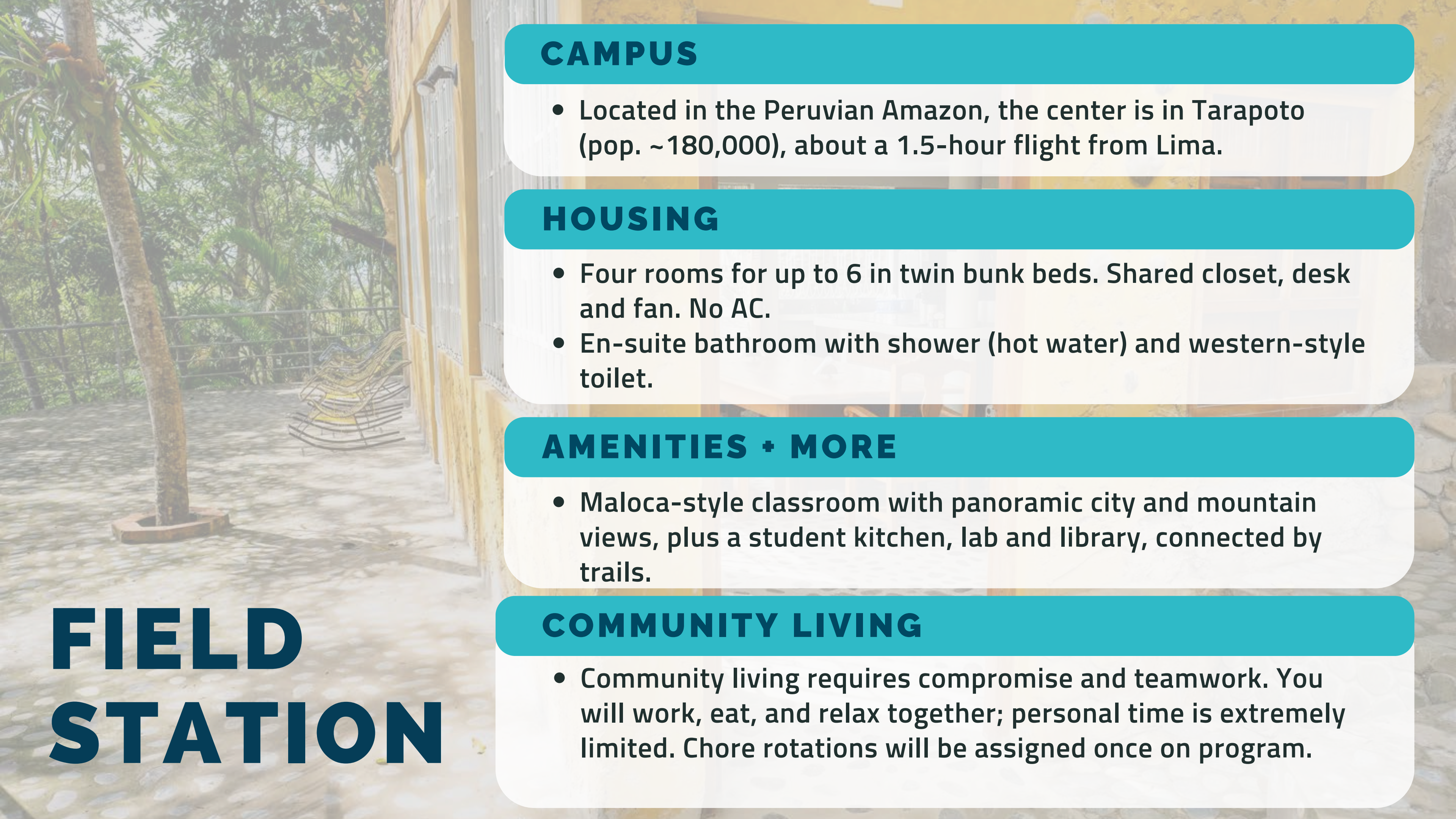
- You chose to study abroad and embrace a new culture, both for its positives and negatives.
- You may feel frustration, but it is important to keep a positive mindset.
- You are not here to judge or change, but rather to learn and experience.



LIFE ON PROGRAM

HOUSING, SCHEDULE & FOOD



The background image shows a tropical outdoor setting. On the left, a large tree trunk is visible. In the center, there's a paved area with some yellow chairs or benches. To the right, a building with a yellow wall and a window is partially visible. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

FIELD STATION

CAMPUS

- Located in the Peruvian Amazon, the center is in Tarapoto (pop. ~180,000), about a 1.5-hour flight from Lima.

HOUSING

- Four rooms for up to 6 in twin bunk beds. Shared closet, desk and fan. No AC.
- En-suite bathroom with shower (hot water) and western-style toilet.

AMENITIES + MORE

- Maloca-style classroom with panoramic city and mountain views, plus a student kitchen, lab and library, connected by trails.

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.

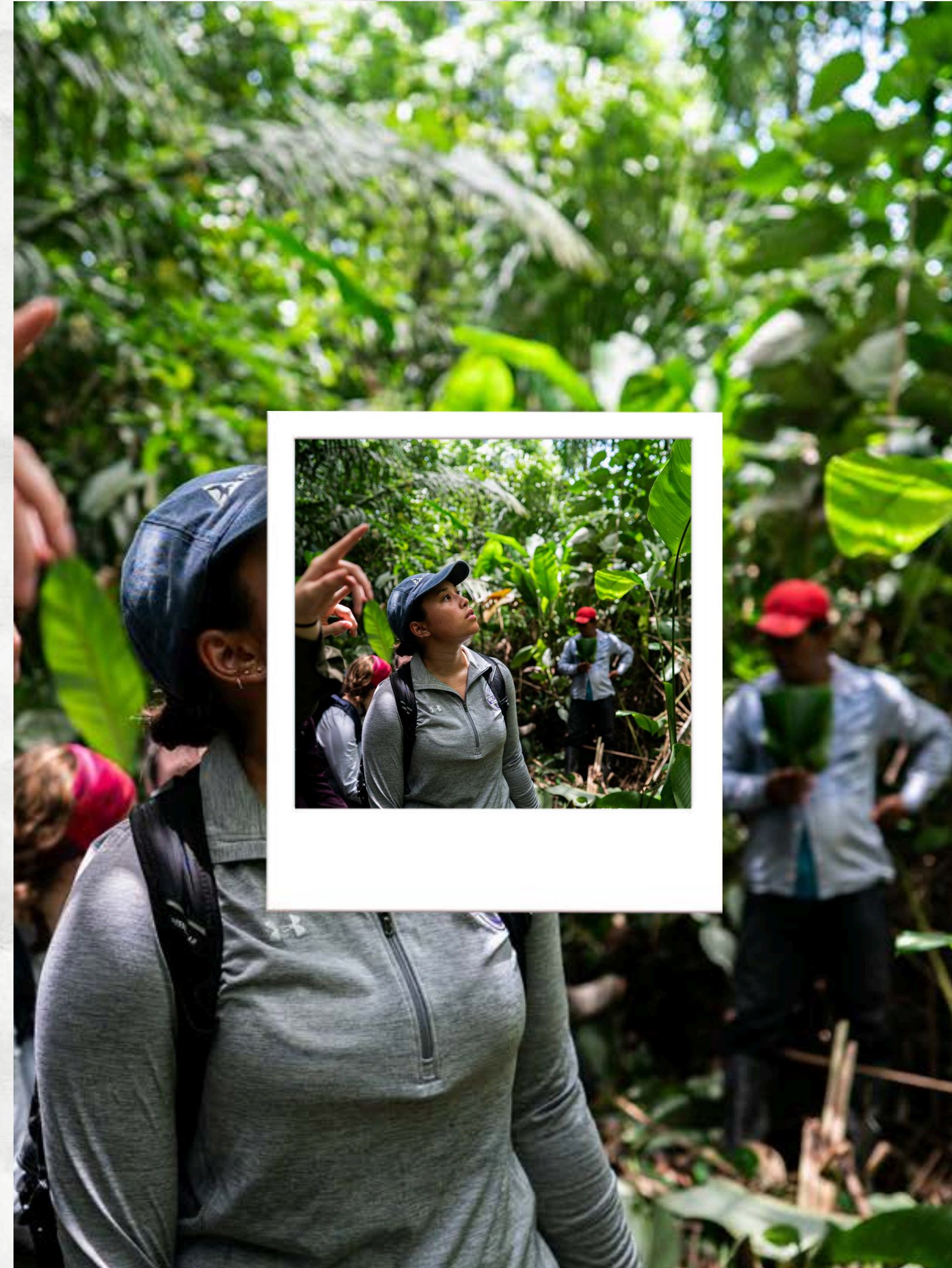
THE CENTER FOR AMAZON STUDIES



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, 7am - 8pm
- 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 and dry campus enforced



No smoking on campus (no e-cig)



No non-SFS guests without staff approval



Sign out and buddy system



No cannabis products (*)

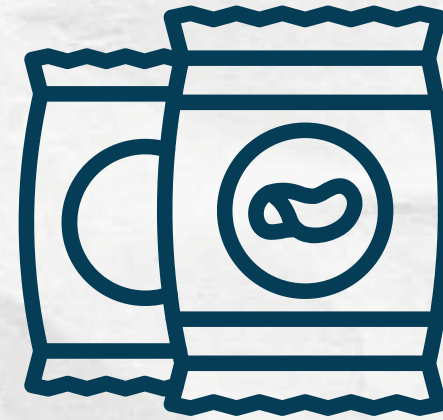


(*) This includes medical marijuana and some types of CBD oil - contact Student Life before bringing any CBD products

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



MEALS



SNACKS



FRESH WATER

Breakfast Example: Fruit, cereal, eggs, cheese, ham, bread, butter, jam, coffee, and tea.

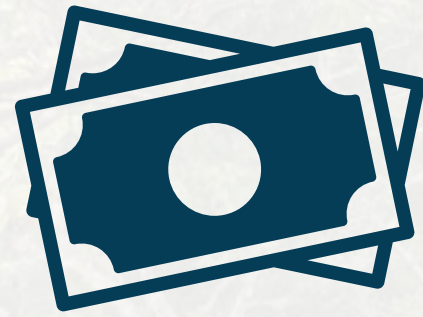
Lunch/Dinner Example: Rice, pasta, or potatoes; protein (meat or vegetarian options); and vegetables.

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

A group of people are on a green boat on a calm river. They are all wearing orange life jackets. Some are using binoculars, one is using a camera, and another is holding a map. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a clear sky.

PACKING

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING



CURRENCY

- Peruvian Sol (PEN)
- Cash and debit/credit cards
- ATM access
- Notify your bank



CLIMATE

- Warm and Humid
- Average temp: 70-94°F
- Rain is year-round

WHAT YOU SHOULD **BRING**

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

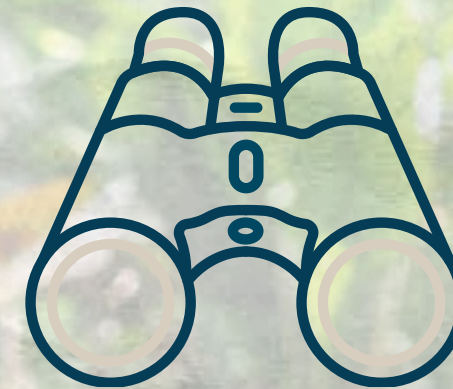


CLOTHING

TOILETRIES + MEDICATION



FIELD GEAR



ROOM NECESSITIES

FOR CLASSROOM



PACKING CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Long pants, long sleeve shirts, and rubber boots are required for all trail work.

Rubber boots can be bought in town, but students with especially large or small feet should bring their own.

TECHNOLOGY

Laptop with USB port
MS Office (or equivalent).

Electronics Protection
220V (check devices; converter may be required).
Plug types A and C; adapters required.

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

LUGGAGE

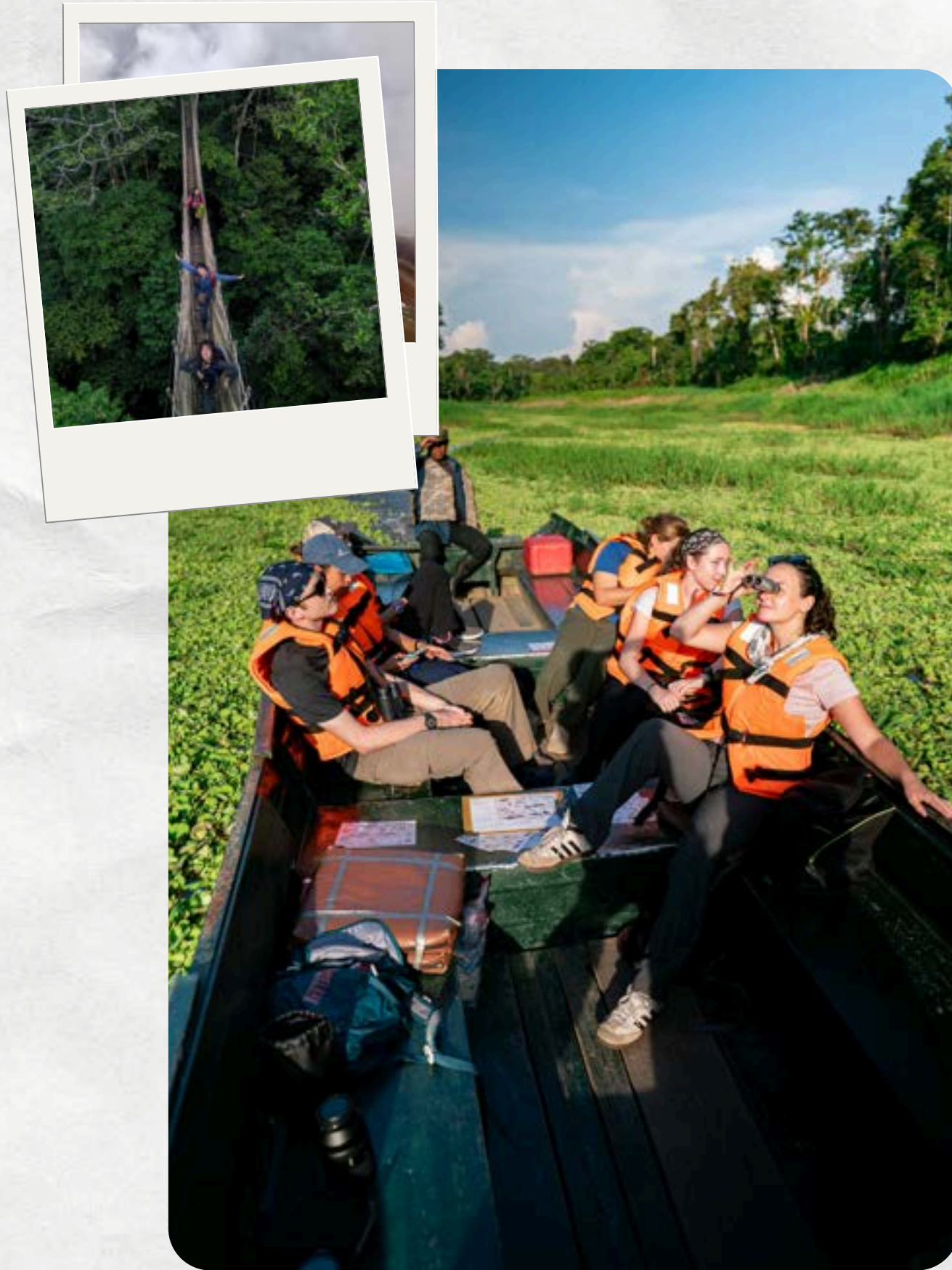
SFS has no luggage limitations, although your airline(s) might!

You will be responsible for transporting your own luggage.

A group of hikers is seen from behind, walking along a narrow path in a dense tropical forest. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and a backpack. The forest is lush with green foliage, including large palm fronds and moss-covered logs. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

HEALTH & SAFETY

MEDICAL CARE & MEDICAL REVIEW



ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS



Dengue, malaria and yellow fever



Drinking culture (*)



Drug dealers and false taxi drivers



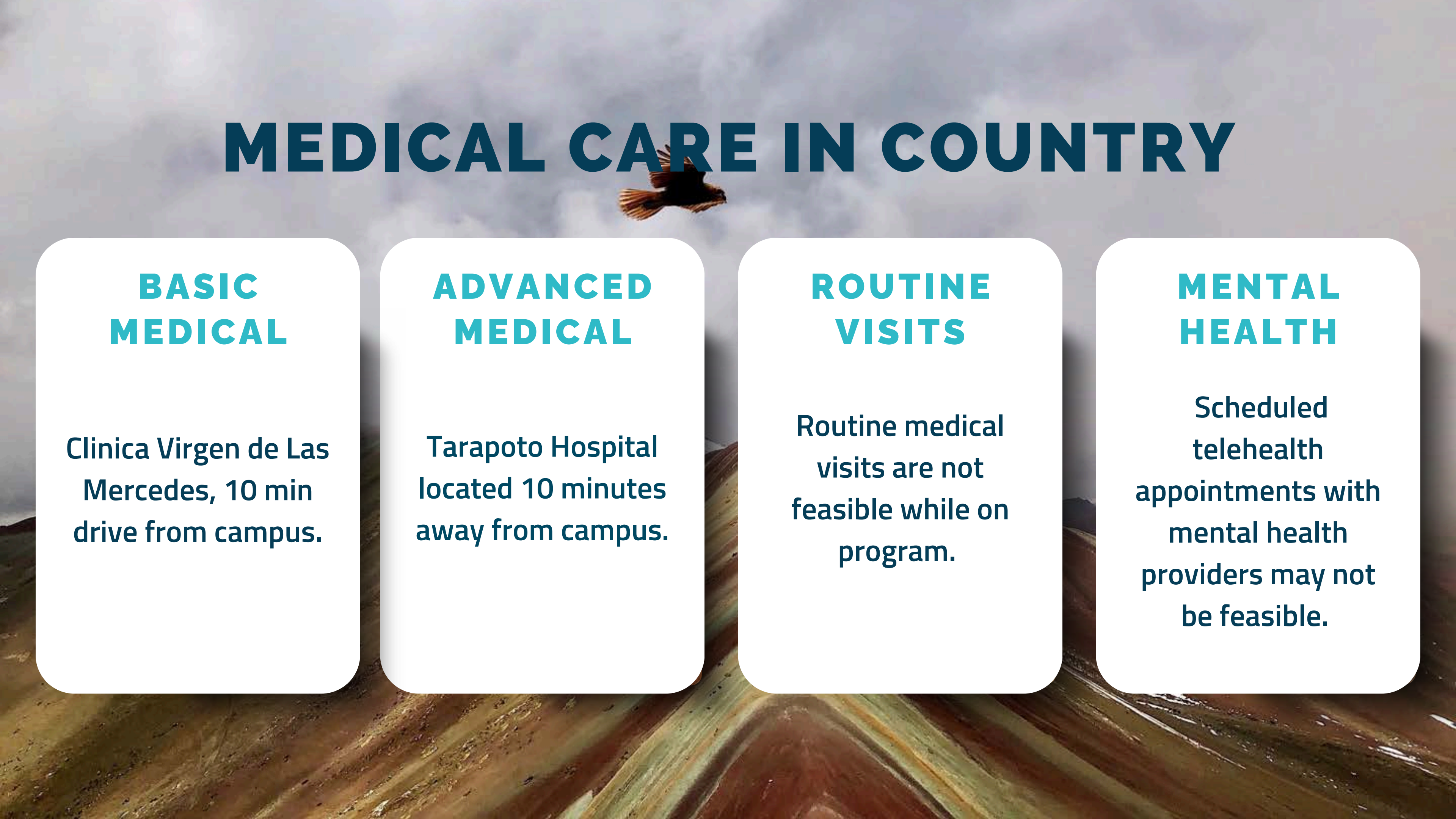
Heat and humidity



Insects, snakes

(*) Bars, nightclubs, illicit drugs.

MEDICAL CARE IN COUNTRY



BASIC MEDICAL

Clinica Virgen de Las Mercedes, 10 min drive from campus.

ADVANCED MEDICAL

Tarapoto Hospital located 10 minutes away from campus.

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 rabies pre-exposure vaccination, yellow fever vaccine, and malaria prophylaxis (semester only)



Obtain prescription medication prior to your departure



A person is walking across a wooden suspension bridge in a dense, green forest. The bridge is made of wooden planks and has rope railings. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants. The background is filled with tall trees and thick foliage. The text "NEXT STEPS" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

NEXT STEPS

VISAS, FLIGHTS, & PAPERWORK

VISAS AND FLIGHTS

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

For US Citizens, visas are granted **upon arrival, no** pre-departure work needed.

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

This will be in Lima. Have your passport ready!

LUGGAGE

Collect your luggage and leave the security area. You will need to re-check for your domestic flight.

FINDING SFS

In Tarapoto, 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 have at least six months' validity at the time of entry
- 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
@SFS_PERU

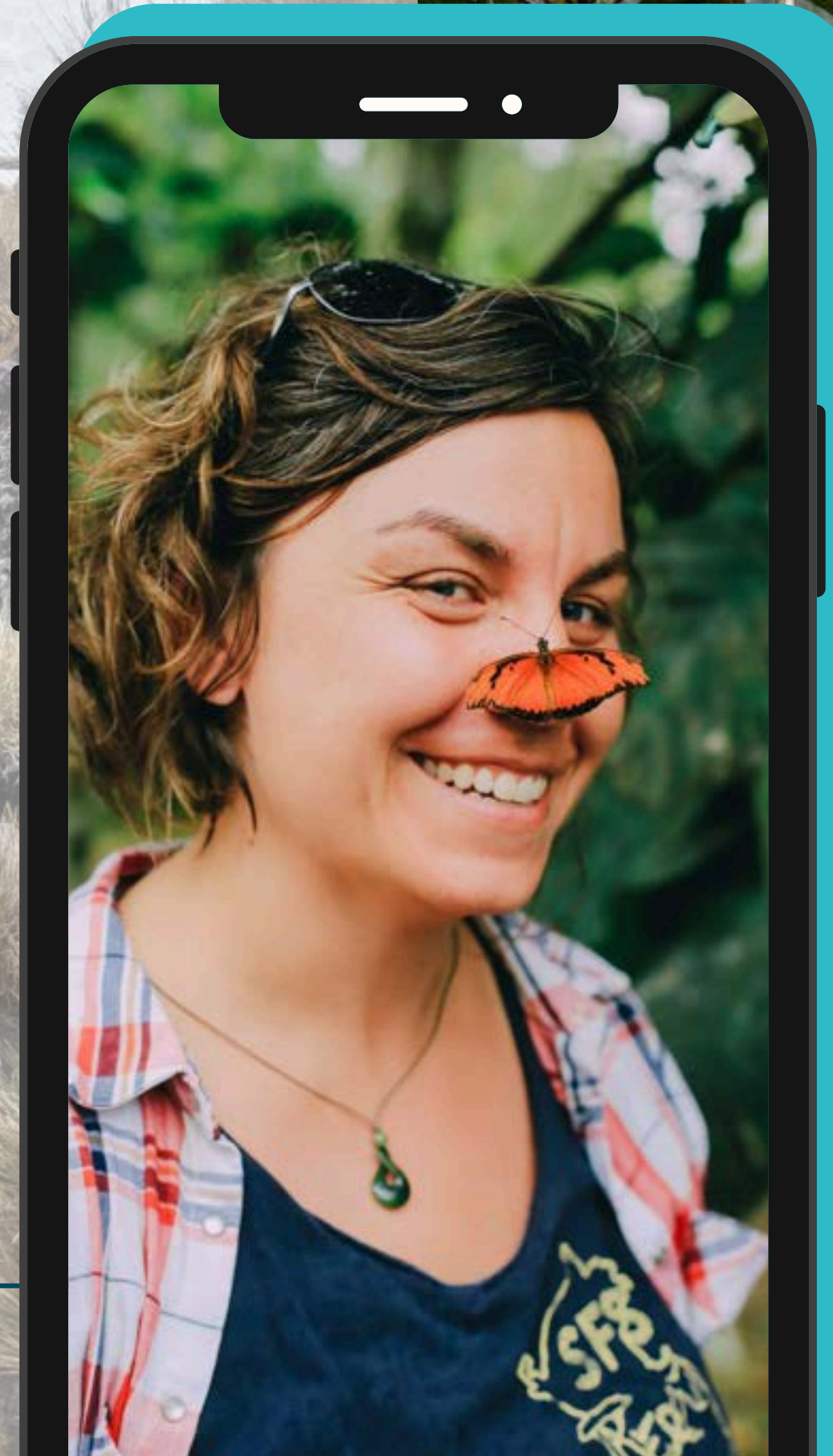


THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



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Tag us in your
posts @thesfs!





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