

THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



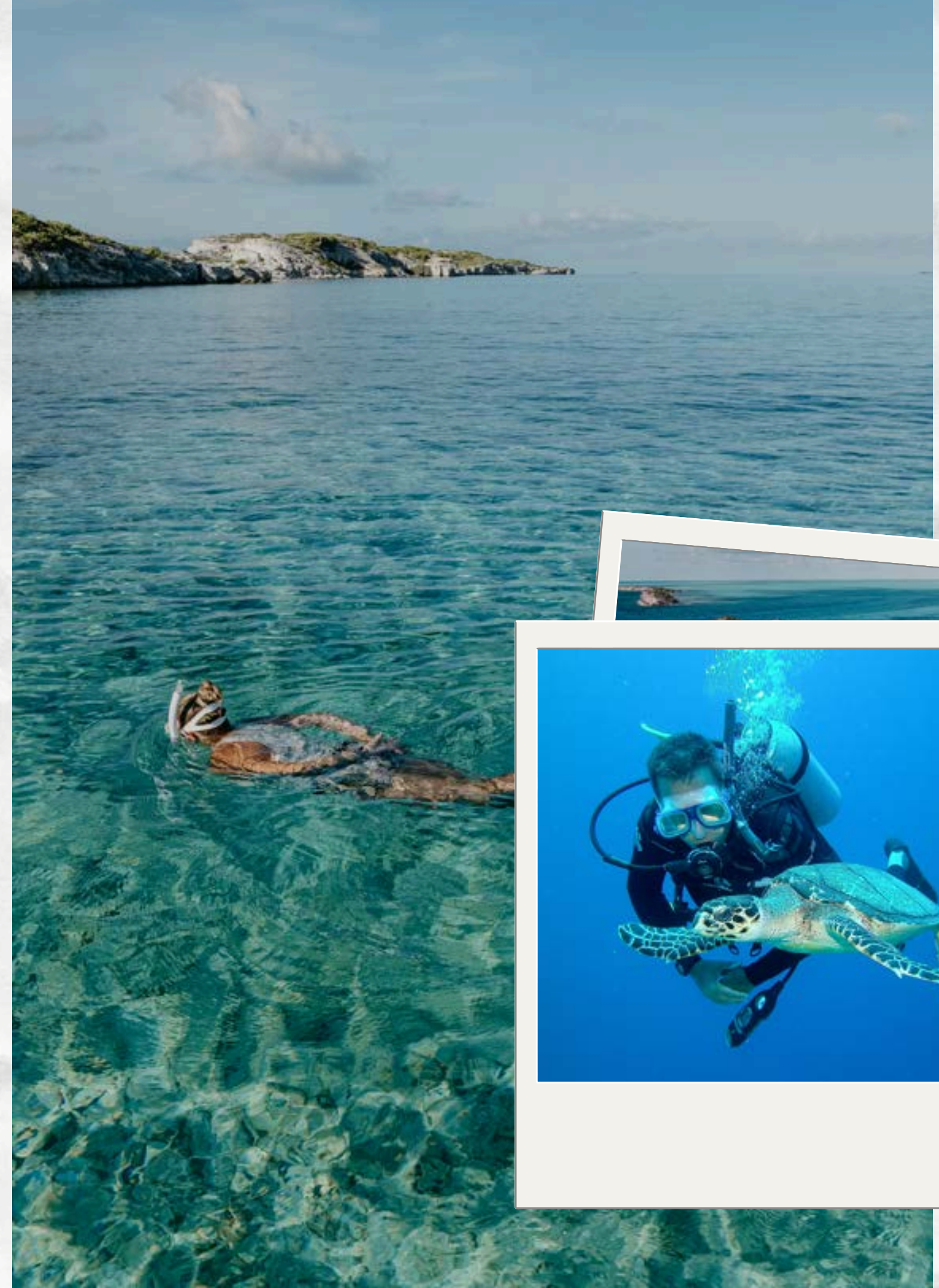
TURKS & CAICOS

A GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR YOUR
SFS PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS
DEPARTMENT

AGENDA

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





TURKS & CAICOS

LOCAL CULTURE

LANGUAGE

The official language is English, with Spanish and Haitian Creole as secondary languages.

RELIGION

Predominately Christian with small communities of Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and Seventh-Day Adventist. Small communities of Muslims and Jews on Provo.

LGBTQIA+

Same-sex relationships legal.
Most locals do not understand LGBTQIA+ identities.
Certain members may be inquisitive or verbally hostile.



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.



An aerial photograph of a boat moving across vibrant turquoise water, leaving a white wake. The boat is filled with people, and the overall scene is bright and energetic.

LIFE ON PROGRAM

HOUSING, SCHEDULE & FOOD

FIELD STATION

CAMPUS

- A former hotel, the TCI Center sits on a 20-foot cliff overlooking the sea in a very small town.

HOUSING

- 7 rooms, 4–6 students each, twin bunk beds. En suite bathrooms with cold water. One freshwater shower/week; unlimited saltwater showers. No AC. All clothes hand-washed.

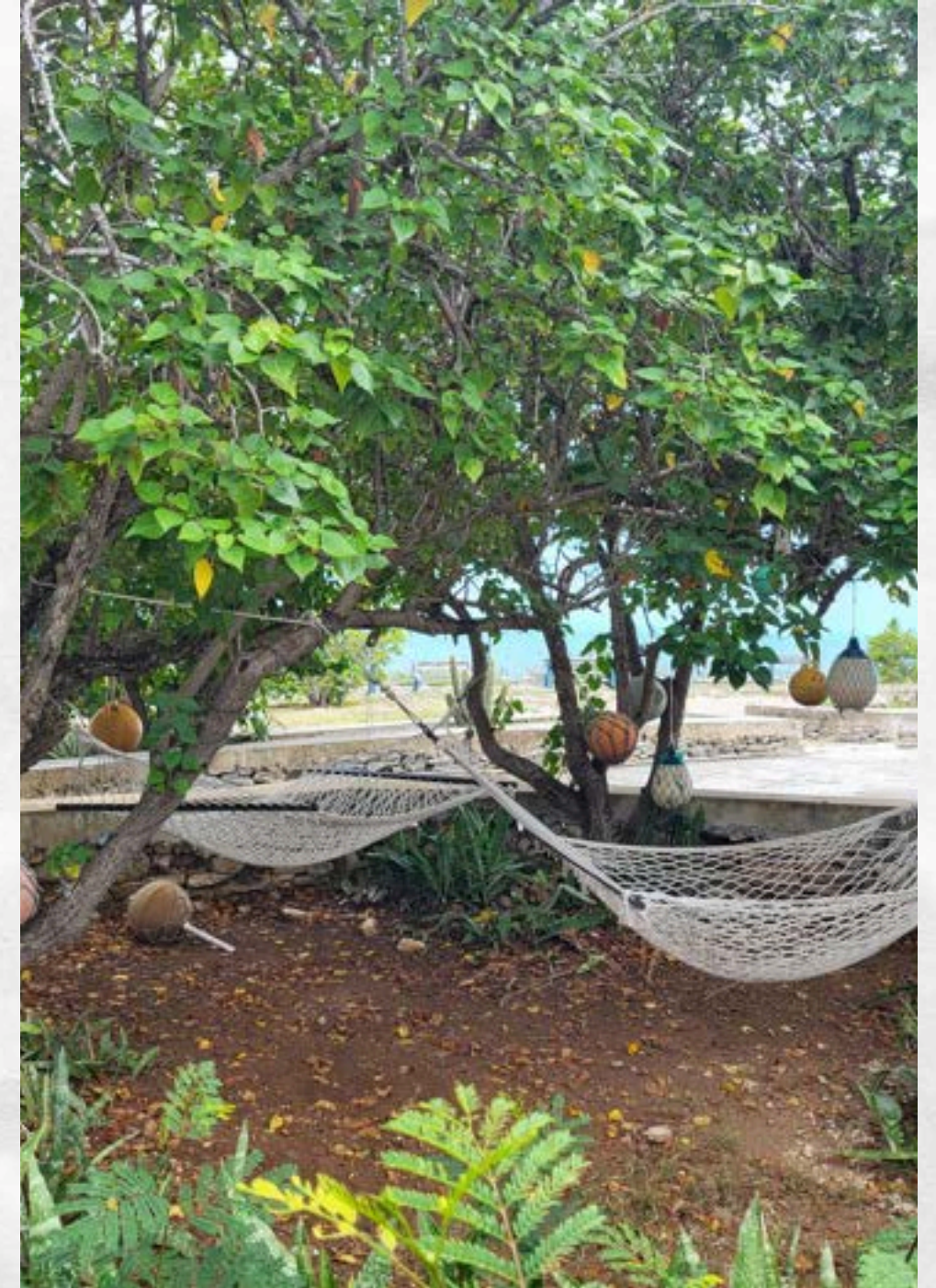
AMENITIES + MORE

- Small computer room, swim zone and swim lane right in your “backyard,” and a hangout space with benches and hammocks.

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.

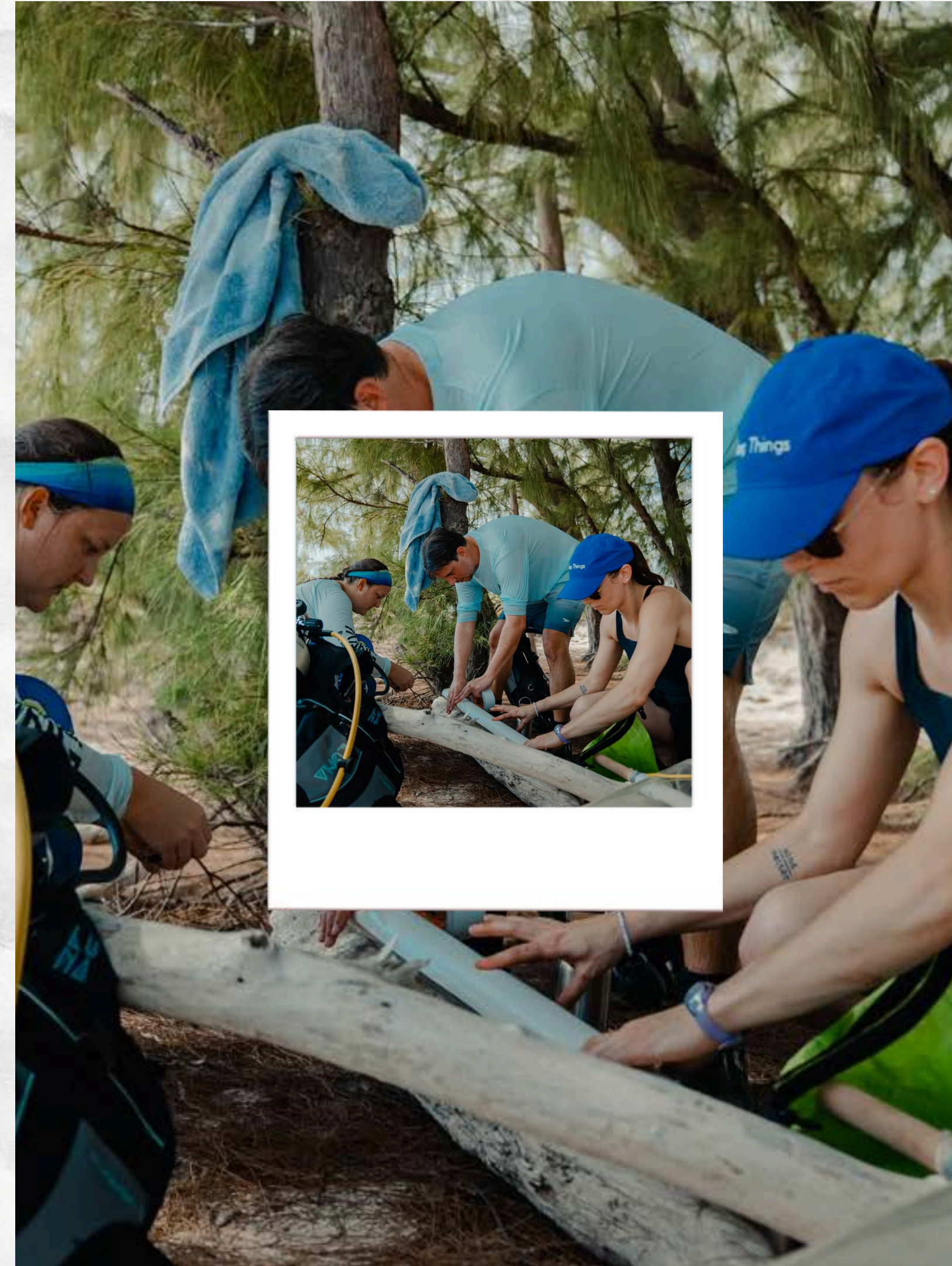
THE CENTER FOR MARINE RESOURCE STUDIES



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

An underwater photograph showing two divers. In the foreground, a diver with long reddish-brown hair, wearing a dark wetsuit and a black mask, is holding a pink clipboard and writing with a yellow marker. In the background, another diver in a white shirt and mask is also writing on a clipboard. They are swimming over a rocky seabed with some coral. The water is clear and blue, with light reflecting off the surface.

- Days are highly structured
- Typically, 7am - 7pm, with Sundays generally free
- 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



Smoking only in designated areas



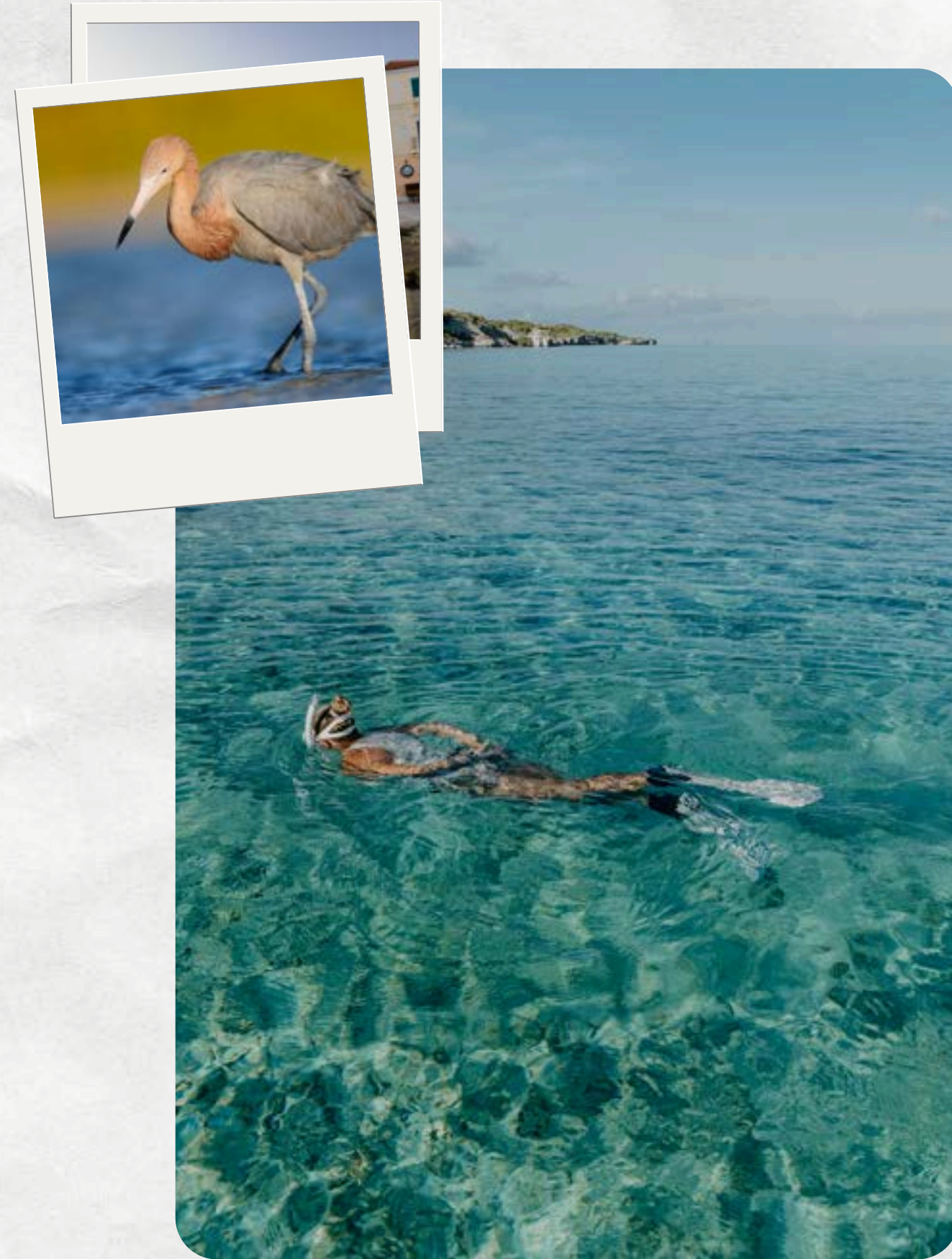
No non-SFS guests without staff approval



Sign out and buddy system



No cannabis products (*)

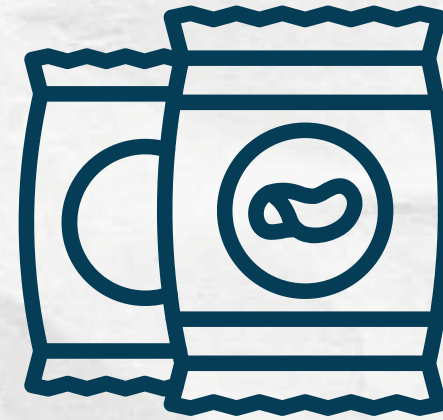


(*) This includes medical marijuana and some types of CBD oil - contact Student Life before bringing any CBD product.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



MEALS



SNACKS



FRESH WATER

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner Example: Rice, beans, vegetables, plantains, fruit, and meat.

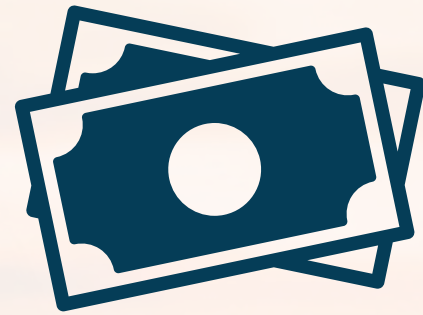
Fresh fruit and vegetables can be limited since all food is shipped in every 2 weeks (weather dependent).

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

A close-up photograph of a person's hands measuring a sea turtle's flipper with a yellow tape measure. The turtle is being held by another person, and its head and front flipper are visible. The background shows the legs and feet of several people standing on a sandy beach. The text "PACKING" is overlaid in large white letters, and "WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING" is overlaid in smaller white letters on a dark blue background.

PACKING

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING



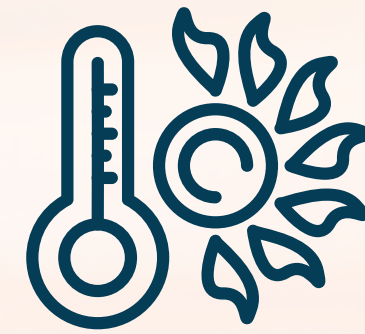
CURRENCY

US Dollar (USD)

Cash-based economy

ATM access + Credit Card

Notify your bank



CLIMATE

Hot and humid year round

Average temp: 75-90°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

Please refrain from using crop-tops or shorts/skirts/dresses with less than a 3-inch inseam.

You may also wish to bring hair care products to protect your hair during ocean activities.

TECHNOLOGY

Laptop with USB port
MS Office (or equivalent).

Electronics Protection
120V; U.S.-style plugs (no adapter or converter needed)

Unreliable Internet –
download podcasts, music,
movies, etc., before arrival.

LUGGAGE

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

You will be responsible for transporting your own luggage.

A group of five young adults (three women and two men) are sitting on a rocky cliff overlooking a turquoise ocean and a sandy beach. The group is diverse in ethnicity and is smiling at the camera. The background shows a clear blue sky, a calm turquoise sea, and a small sandy beach with some rocks in the distance. The foreground is a rocky cliff with some green shrubs.

HEALTH & SAFETY

MEDICAL CARE & MEDICAL REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS



Sunburn, Dehydration, etc.



Jelly fish, sea urchins (*)



Infections and Insect borne diseases



Stray dogs



Hurricanes and tropical storms



(*) and other wildlife.

MEDICAL CARE IN COUNTRY

BASIC MEDICAL

There is a medical clinic on South Caicos.

ADVANCED MEDICAL

Advanced medical care requires travel to Provo, 30 minute flight or 90 minute ferry.

ROUTINE VISITS

Routine medical visits are not feasible while on program.

MENTAL HEALTH

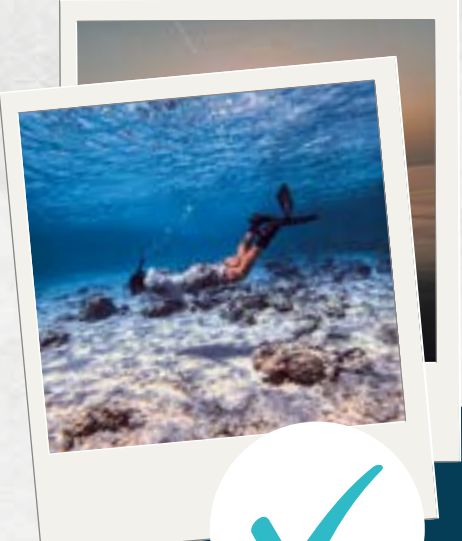
Scheduled telehealth appointments with mental health providers may not be feasible.

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



Students planning to SCUBA will need to complete additional paperwork





NEXT STEPS

VISAS, FLIGHTS, & PAPERWORK

VISAS AND FLIGHTS

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

Visa requirements available upon acceptance in your SFS Student Portal.

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

A photograph of three people on a rocky beach. A woman in a white long-sleeved shirt with 'COMPTON' on the sleeve and a blue headband is crouching. A man in a light blue shirt and yellow shorts is also crouching, holding a white container. A woman in a dark blue shirt is crouching next to them. They appear to be working together on the ground. The ocean is in the background.

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 6 months after departure from Turks and Caicos
- 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
@THE_SFS_TCI

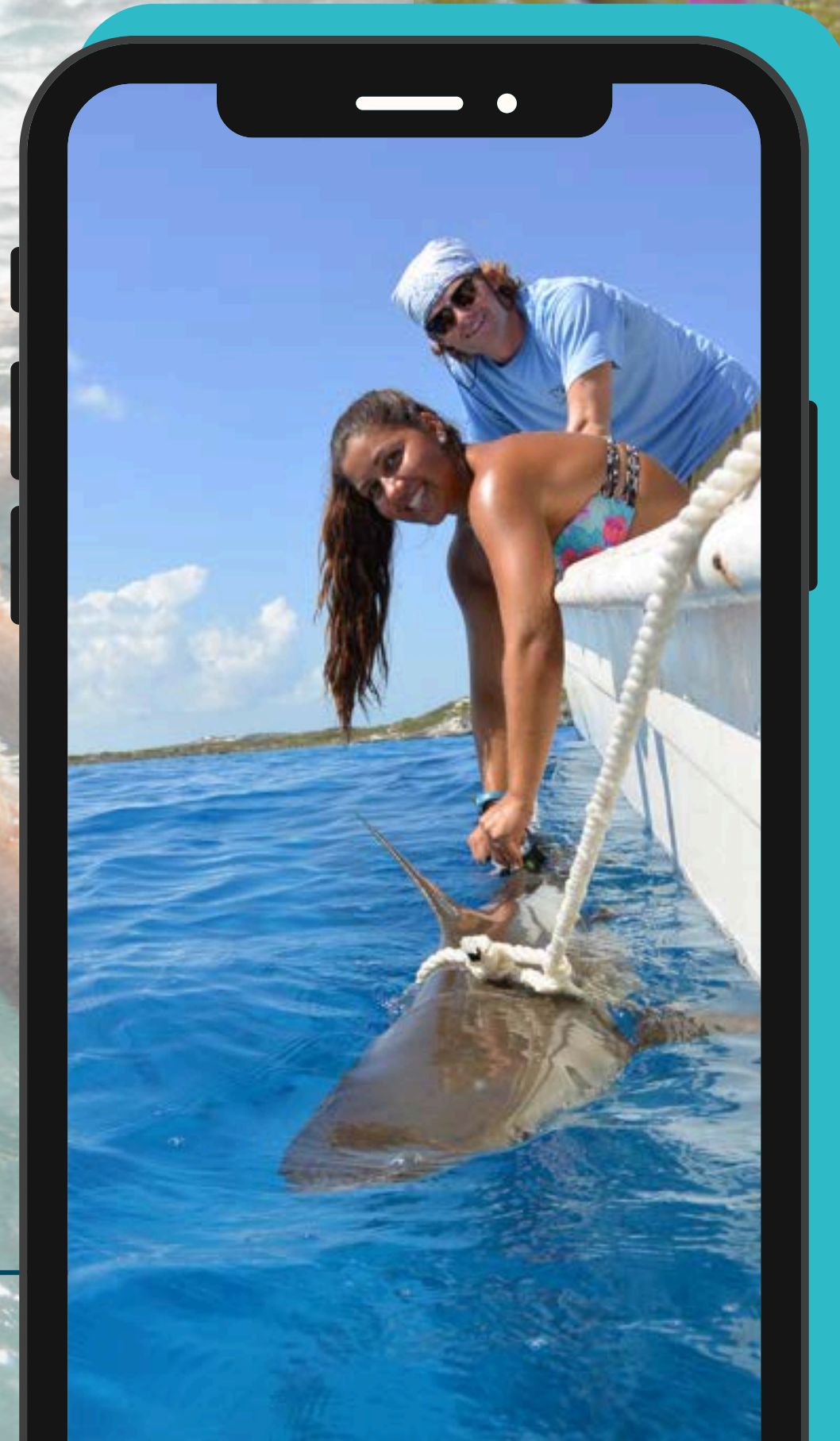


THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES

Tag us in your
posts @thesfs!



A photograph of two young women lying in a hammock outdoors. The woman on the right is smiling and playing a ukulele, while the woman on the left is looking up at her. They are in a relaxed, happy state. The background shows trees and foliage.

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