



# TURKS & CAICOS

## FIELD GUIDE

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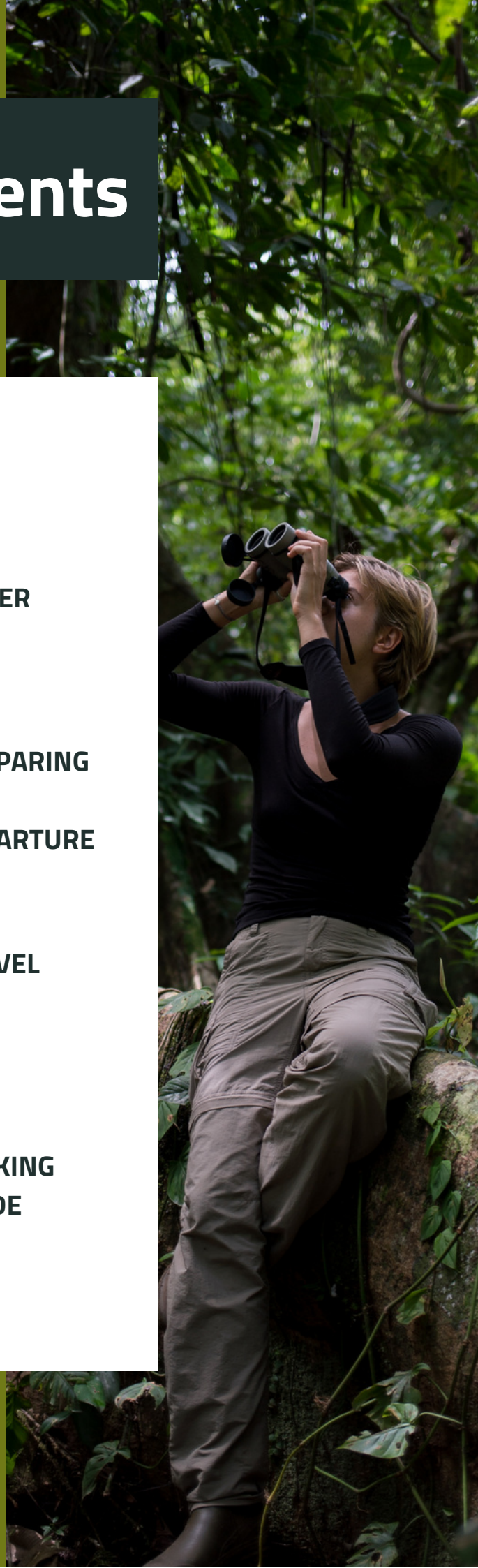
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**LIFE IN THE FIELD**





## Academic Foci

- The center is located on the island South Caicos nestled within the larger British Overseas Territory of Turks and Caicos.
- Turks and Caicos Islands are surrounded by coral reefs, sea walls, a deep ocean trench, mangroves, and seagrass beds.
- These marine ecosystems are critical to the tourism and fishery economies, but are under enormous pressure from coastal development, a rising demand for seafood, and the impacts of climate change.
- Turks and Caicos is home to spotted eagle rays, migrating humpback whales, sea turtles, sharks, and numerous fish.

### SEMESTER: MARINE RESOURCE STUDIES

Marine ecology and conservation. Ocean acidification. Marine resource management. Approaches to sustainable tourism and fisheries. Coral health and resilience. Traditional island livelihoods. Coastal Management. Marine protected areas.

### SUMMER 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE CONSERVATION

Marine ecology and conservation. Ocean acidification. Marine resource management. Approaches to sustainable tourism and fisheries. Coastal Management. Marine protected areas.

### SUMMER 2: MARINE FAUNA

Large fauna behavior and tracking. Marine species population health. Marine ecology and conservation. Marine protected areas. Ocean acidification.



## SCUBA

Diving involves groups of 4-8 students, a Divemaster, and a safety diver who go out in small boats to sites generally within a mile of the center. Weather permitting, summer students dive 5-7 times during each summer session, and semester students dive 15-20 times during their program. For your safety, please be prepared for scheduled activities to be changed or canceled in the event of bad weather.

SCUBA divers are required to purchase their gear either through SFS or on their own prior to arriving. Unfortunately, there is no option at the moment to rent gear on South Caicos. Students who opt to purchase their own gear package will be expected to provide a receipt of purchase or service within one year of their program end date. Students who purchase the SFS gear package will need to transport their gear home with them at the end of their program. SFS follows conservative diving practices and requires the use of dive computers for added safety. Additionally, all SCUBA divers will be required to purchase Divers Alert Network (DAN) Insurance on top of their international health insurance plan. More information about the gear package, order due dates, and insurance requirements can be found in the student portal after acceptance.

The PADI Open Water certification is offered during Summer 1 and Semester programs. The PADI Advanced Open Water certification is offered during Summer 2 and Semester programs. If you are only attending the Summer 2 session and wish to SCUBA dive, you will need to obtain your open water SCUBA certification prior to arrival from a recognized organization such as PADI, NAUI, CMAS, SDI, or SSI.





# Community Engagement

You will live at a field station as a cohort, rather than in a homestay, local apartment, or university dorm. This means that you will not necessarily be eating local cuisine, speaking a local language, or navigating the local culture every day. However, we fundamentally believe that meaningful research is only possible with the input of local people and in consideration of cultural history, so community engagement may vary each term to reflect the requests of our partners.



## Identity

Every country is shaped by its history, and therefore attitudes towards gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and religion can differ greatly. Keep in mind that what seems like discrimination may simply be curiosity. Additionally, most students expect to encounter differences between themselves and their host country but don't realize the most significant differences may be between themselves and their student group. Students should research how different aspects of their identity might be perceived in a new context, in specific political and societal issues, racial, ethnic, and religious composition, LGBTQIA+ climate (Resources [1](#) and [2](#)), and cultural norms and local laws. Reflecting on one's own culture and identity before studying abroad can help students better navigate their experience abroad.

It is a privilege to study in another country and be welcomed into these communities. It is not our students' place to try and change its culture or values. While students will be learning about the country and its people, they will be ambassadors of their own country and culture. SFS campuses are permanent fixtures, and these communities are home to our staff members year-round. Behavior that is disrespectful, illegal, or contrary to cultural norms can degrade the relationship with the community and can impede meaningful interactions for peers, SFS staff members, and future students.



## Setting and Facilities

A former hotel on South Caicos, a rocky island of 13mi<sup>2</sup>.

RURAL ← ● → URBAN

### COCKBURN HARBOR

5-minute drive

Population ~1,000

Nearest town. Two seasonal resorts and a few small stores. Stray horses, donkeys, dogs, cats, etc.

### PROVIDENCIALES

30-minute flight or 90-minute ferry

Population ~24,000

Island with largest population in Turks & Caicos. Tourist hub, International airport, and decompression treatment.

### HOUSING

Eight rooms, 4-6 people per room in twin bunk beds. Shared desk, closet, and shelves. Personal storage cubby. No AC and one fan per room.

En-suite bathroom with fresh-water shower (cold water) and western-style toilet. Due to water shortages, indoor fresh-water showers are permitted once per week. Outdoor salt-water showers can be used as desired.

### OTHER FACILITIES

Dogs and cats live on site.

The main building houses the dining room, kitchen, classroom, and computer room facilities.

No washing machines or dryers. All clothes are washed by hand (detergent not provided) and hung on clotheslines. Laundromat in town open when water supplies permit (8-10 USD per load plus additional money to use dryer).



## Food

SFS can accommodate most dietary needs, but the variety of food may be limited due to local availability and cost. SFS cannot accommodate life-threatening cumin allergies or strict Halal or Kosher diets. Infrequent food deliveries to the island mean that fresh produce may be limited. Due to limited dietary variety, SFS always recommends bringing vitamins, protein bars, nuts, favorite snacks, etc.

Meals may consist of rice or pasta, vegetables, meat, and fruit. Snacks may include tea, coffee, crackers and cheese, and pastries.



## Climate

The weather is hot and arid year-round. Average temperatures range from 70-90°F. Hurricanes are possible June-September.



## Exercise

At the center, there is a swim lane, snorkel zone, and yoga mats. In town, there are bodyweight exercise machines, a field for soccer/frisbee, and a gym. Students can run in town using the buddy system.



## Time-off

Semester students will be given a mid-semester break. Summer students will not be given time off to travel independently.

Students are responsible for their own food and accommodations during non-program time. Students are not allowed to stay at the center during mid-semester break or during the interim between Summer 1 and Summer 2 sessions. See page 11 for estimated costs.



## Chores

There is no cleaning service at the center, so students are expected to take responsibility for their space during their stay. Students and staff will help set up/clean up for meals and engage in a center-wide, bi-weekly clean-up. Specific chore responsibilities and schedules will be shared during orientation.



## Money

The local currency is the U.S. Dollar (USD).

Turks & Caicos is primarily a cash-based economy. However, all students are required to bring a credit/debit card with at least \$3,000 in funds in case of emergencies. Mastercard and Visa are the most commonly accepted cards internationally. Be sure to notify your bank that you will be traveling internationally.

You should bring the entire amount of USD you plan to spend with you to start (bills no larger than \$20 USD). The one ATM on the island is frequently out of order or without money.





## Electricity

The electrical voltage and plug type in Turks & Caicos are the same as in the U.S. Students will not need a voltage converter or plug adapters. During some overnight semester excursions electricity will not be available.



## Internet

Wireless internet is available at the center, but it is slow and intermittent. SFS reserves the right to limit internet activities occurring on our servers including, but not limited to, streaming or downloading audio/video content (Facetime, Netflix, etc.). During some semester overnight excursions, WIFI will not be available.



## Computers

Students need to bring laptops with Microsoft Office (or the ability to open Microsoft files offline) and a USB port. Electronic devices are subjected to a much harsher environment than normal. In particular, Apple products do not fare well in high humidity and are more difficult to repair or replace locally. Please take precautions to protect your device.



## Phones

Students are provided basic phones for local use or students with unlocked phones have the option to buy a local sim card to use. Plans range from \$20-150 USD per month.



## Mail

Average one-way travel time for mail from the U.S. to Turks & Caicos is 3-6 weeks. Therefore, no mail can be sent during the summer programs or the final 1.5 months of semester programs, as students will not receive it! Mail will not be forwarded.

Address: Student Name, The School for Field Studies,  
P.O. Box 007, 1 West Street, South Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands,  
British West Indies, TKCA 1ZZ





# Health & Safety in the Field



## 24-Hour Emergency Hotline

SFS maintains a 24-hour emergency hotline. If you need to urgently contact a student in the field, call 978.219.5113.



## Student Health & Wellness Manager

The Student Health & Wellness Manager is a full-time primary medical responder and student support personnel on campus. They are certified in Wilderness First Response, or equivalent certification, and trained in sexual assault first response. They also counsel students on adjusting to life abroad, conduct risk assessments, and help coordinate program logistics and community outreach.



## Orientation

Upon arrival to campus, students receive an orientation about the local community and culture, center operations, and relevant risks and hazards. Prior to arriving on program, students should research the inherent risks associated with traveling abroad.



## Medical Care

SFS maintains a detailed risk assessment and management plan outlining risks and response protocols, including nearby medical facilities and their treatment capabilities. These plans ensure that staff are always aware of the best route for appropriate medical care.

If a visit to a medical care facility is needed, an SFS staff member will accompany the student to the appointment. Be aware that there may be times when access to medical care is delayed, such as on expedition. Students are responsible for all medical costs and all incidental expenses including transportation, accommodations, etc., incurred by all parties involved. This may include costs related to COVID-19 quarantining. Some medical emergencies or conditions may necessitate medical withdrawal from the program. Final decisions on medical withdrawal are made by SFS.



## Mental Health Support

Adjusting to new routines, relationships, and cultural environments while away from your usual support systems can be challenging. The ways you manage stress, take care of yourself, or find joy may not be available to you while you are abroad. Many students also struggle with the rigorous schedule that is inherent to the nature of SFS programs. Understand that you may have decreased communication with home, limited privacy and alone time, and infrequent or modified opportunities for exercise.

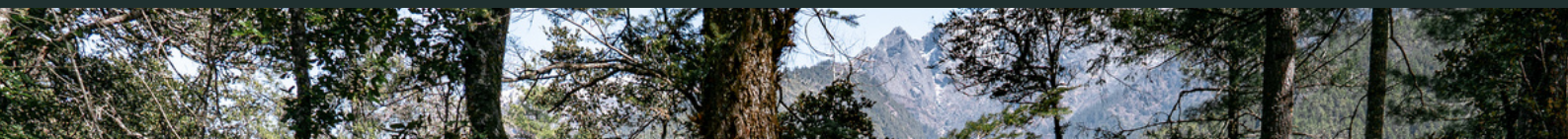
SFS is partnered with Morneau Shepell to provide students with access to free, mental health and wellness support by chat, phone, and video that can be accessed whenever connected to wifi. Students should download My Student Support Program (My SSP) in the app store or on the [My SSP website](#). My SSP is a supplemental resource, and students should work with their mental health provider to create a primary support plan. Students who undergo regular counseling should verify that their mental health provider is available while they are abroad.



# Sexual Health & Wellness

When it comes to sexual health and wellness during your program, please consider:

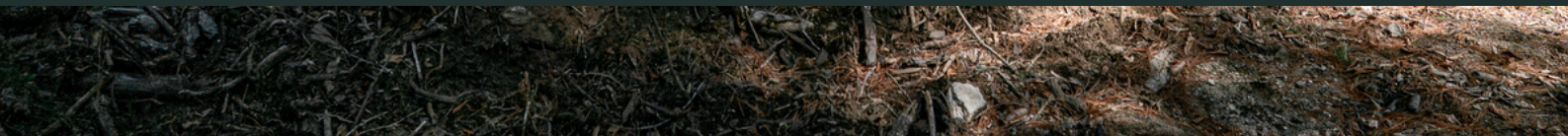
- The ramifications that a short-term relationship may have on a small residential campus or within the local community.
- Access to protection, medication for sexually transmitted infections, and emergency contraception may not be available.
- The current dialogue and understanding of consent in the U.S. does not always apply in other cultures.
- If you feel subjected to sexual harassment, you should walk away from any situation that makes you uncomfortable without concern for being culturally inappropriate. You can report harassment or assault to any SFS staff member.
- In the case of a sexual assault, SFS will make every effort to support you. This includes access to medical care, the option to report to local law enforcement, and identifying additional support resources. Local laws, definitions, and legal implications often differ from those in the U.S. Different laws and limited availability of resources such as rape kits can be complicating factors in responding to a report of sexual harassment or sexual assault in foreign countries.



## LGBTQIA+

SFS is welcoming of all students at our centers. However, when traveling throughout Australia, please be aware of the following:

- Laws and social customs may differ from your home country, and countries that criminalize same-sex partnerships may also use the law to criminalize gender identities and gender expressions.
- Cultural practices may not support freedom of expression and travelers may experience discrimination and harassment.
- Some cultural practices are based on traditional gender roles and gender expressions. As a result, those who do not identify as they physically present may sometimes be misgendered or misidentified.
- Some languages are gendered, resulting in a lack of terms that encompass non-binary and gender-neutral identities.
- Health services specific to transgender people may be limited or unavailable. You may also be denied services in your affirmed gender while you are traveling abroad.
- It is not always possible to use preferred names or gender identities (visa paperwork, plane tickets, hotel reservations, and government sites). Gender X is not recognized worldwide, and you may need to provide binary sex information.



## Social Drinking & Drugs

There is no consumption or possession of alcohol allowed on campus. If you choose to consume alcohol on your days off in which you are off campus, please do so in moderation and maintain respectful behavior toward others.

Possession of marijuana and cannabis-infused products, including some cannabidiol (CBD) oils, is currently illegal under U.S. federal law. SFS does not allow possession or use of any drugs or medications that are illegal for the full duration of SFS programs including free time and weekends away. Check local laws before possessing, purchasing, or using electronic cigarettes or vaping devices on program.





## **PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE**





# Program Costs

The relationship SFS has with your school will determine your billing process. Within a week of acceptance, you or your school will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit to reserve your spot. Afterward, our finance department will reach out to you or your school to collect tuition payments. Up-to-date costs and refund policies can be found [here](#).

Included in SFS program costs are program advising and orientations, tuition and research fees, airport transfers, housing, meals during program time, field excursions and cultural activities, emergency evacuation and 24/7 support, and official transcript processing.

PROGRAM	BILLING DEADLINE
Spring	November 1st
Summer 1 or 1+2	April 1st
Summer 2	May 1st
Fall	June 1st

BASIC COSTS (BILLED BY SFS)	SEMESTER	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2	SUMMER 1 + 2
Tuition	\$22,350	\$6,350	\$6,350	\$12,700
Room & Board	\$7,150	\$2,550	\$2,550	\$5,100
BASIC PROGRAM COST	\$29,500	\$8,900	\$8,900	\$17,800
ADDITIONAL COSTS (ESTIMATED, ACTUAL COSTS MAY VARY)				
Airfare	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Passport	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Visa fees (if applicable)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Immunizations/Medications	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Personal Expenses	\$800	\$400	\$400	\$800
Program Breaks	\$1,100	N/A	N/A	\$600
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL PROGRAM COSTS	\$3,900	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$3,400
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS (BASIC + ADDITIONAL COSTS)				
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROGRAM COST	\$33,400	\$11,300	\$11,300	\$21,200

SEE PAGE 18 FOR OPTIONAL SCUBA COSTS



## Financial Aid

All students are welcome to apply for SFS financial aid. Financial aid applications are reviewed on a rolling basis starting in February for summer programs, April for fall programs, and September for spring programs. Early submissions are encouraged. Students who submit an SFS financial aid application by the payment deadline will be considered for our full range of aid options. Learn more [here](#).



# TRAVEL



## PASSPORT

You must have a passport in hand four months prior to departure that is valid for at least 6 months after departure from Turks & Caicos.



## VISA

Summer students will enter Turks & Caicos using tourist visas. Summer students' tourist visas will be granted upon arrival and last for 90 days. Nothing needs to be done for the visa pre-arrival. Tourist visas are currently free to obtain, but visa costs are the responsibility and prices are subject to change.

Semester students will enter Turks & Caicos with student visas in progress. Staff will apply for and pay for semester students' student visas. Staff will collect students' passports once on program for immigration officials to complete the student visa process.

Non-U.S. citizens may require a different visa process and are responsible for applying for, obtaining, and paying for their own visa valid for the duration of their stay.

If traveling before or after the program, make sure that your visa will remain valid for the entirety of your stay.



## FLIGHTS

Students are responsible for the cost of flights to and from their program. Students will receive travel instructions at least 2 months prior to the start of their program. Do not book flights before receiving these instructions.

SFS staff will meet students at the airport on the date and time specified in the airport instructions and transport them to the center. Students will receive airport instructions 1-2 weeks prior to the start of their program. If traveling before the program, you are responsible for meeting the group at the airport at the designated date and time. Additionally, SFS is not responsible for transporting or storing luggage before or after the program.

SFS is not responsible for reimbursing travel expenses for programs canceled or rescheduled due to acts of war or civil unrest, strikes, weather, quarantine/epidemics/sickness, government regulations, or failure of equipment, power, or communications.





# Medical Requirements



## Medical Approval Process

Students are required to complete the SFS medical approval process using our HIPPA-compliant portal to inform SFS staff of their medical and mental health needs and accommodations. The review is not meant to exclude, but to inform and allow support systems to be put in place. No student may enter the field until medical approval is granted by SFS. [More information.](#)



## Vaccinations & Medications

### Required

- At least 1 COVID-19 vaccine within 1 year of the program start date, but no less than 2 weeks before departure.

### Recommended

- [Centers for Disease Control](#), travel clinics, or medical providers can provide further recommendations.



## Accommodating Disabilities

SFS will work with students, schools, and physicians to determine the required accommodations and whether it can be safely and reasonably maintained on program. While SFS strives to meet students needs, due to the remote nature of the programs, there are varying levels of accessibility, services, and accommodations. Students with questions regarding physical or mental health accommodations should contact the Office of Student Affairs and learning accommodations should contact the Office of Academic Affairs.



## Insurance

Students are required to buy health insurance. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their coverage is valid in their program country(s) for the full duration of their program and covers basic medical care, including non-urgent illness or injury, laboratory tests, and pharmaceutical needs. SFS does not provide company recommendations. Keep in mind:

- Most domestic health insurance plans do not provide comprehensive coverage for out-of-country medical expenses.
- Schools may provide international health insurance or have their own insurance requirements for studying abroad.
- Most insurance companies provide coverage on a reimbursable basis. Therefore, students need to bring a credit card to pay for medical expenses and then request reimbursement later on.

### Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation Insurance

All students are automatically enrolled in an emergency evacuation and repatriation insurance plan through American International Group, Inc. (AIG) for the duration of their program only. This plan covers the cost of transportation, accommodations, and medical care associated with medically or politically necessary evacuations (e.g. life-saving support during air evacuation). It includes up to \$350,000 for emergency medical evacuation, \$100,000 for emergency security evacuation, and \$20,000 for repatriation of remains. The coverage provided does not cover basic medical care, laboratory tests, or pharmacy needs. Students on SFS programs are required to supply their own comprehensive health insurance as outlined above.





## **PACKING GUIDE**





# Packing Considerations



## Luggage

SFS does not have a specific policy regarding how much or what type of luggage students bring, so pack according to your needs. Make sure you bring only what you can maneuver yourself, and check with all airlines for luggage restrictions and fees.



## Culture & Climate

The center relies heavily on bleach for sanitation, keep this in mind when packing. Many students bring old clothes to wear in the field and leave behind at the end of the program. Do not bring anything that you would not want damaged!

A minimum of 3-inch seams are required for all shorts worn in town. Additionally, crop tops are not appropriate community wear. On certain occasions, SFS will require knees and shoulders to be covered.

Travelers with type 3 or type 4 curls and/or hair that is damaged easily by chlorine, sun, and saltwater may want to consider packing extra products and practicing preventative care. Quality hair care products vary greatly by region, so it is recommended you bring your preferred products with you in a quantity that will last for your entire program. Some items you may consider are coconut oil, deep conditioner, leave-in conditioner, hair masks, clarifying shampoo, a microfiber towel, a swim cap, and/or wide headbands.

As you pack, please consider the impact of the products that you bring with you to your program, both the ingredients and packaging. Plastic can be difficult for waste management in remote environments. Think about bringing a reusable tote, metal straw, cloth napkins, and other items. We also highly encourage biodegradable soaps, shampoos, and conditioners.





# Required Packing

- **Pants** Lightweight blends that dry quickly. 2+ normal/flowy pants for day to day.
- **Shorts** Board shorts or quick dry are best. Minimum of 3-inch seam for shorts worn in town. Runners may want a few pairs of athletic shorts.
- **T-shirts and Tank tops** Keep them loose-fitting with no midriff exposed. Cotton not recommended.
- **Long-sleeved shirts** 2+ for fieldwork. Cotton not recommended.
- **Casual/nice clothes** for town.
- **Lightweight jacket**
- **Lightweight rain jacket with a hood or Poncho**
- **Underwear and Socks**
- **Pajamas** appropriate for shared spaces.
- **Swimsuit** 2+ sets. Alumni recommend more. Two pieces can be used only in combination with rash guard.
- **Sun hat and sunglasses** Hat should have brim, and it is recommended to use polarized sunglasses. Inexpensive is best since salt is corrosive.
- **Sneakers** or other casual shoes.
- **Sandals** with heel straps.
- **Flip flops** for showering.
- **One set of sheets and pillowcase** Twin size. A pillow will be provided at the center.
- **Sleeping bag or lightweight blanket**
- **Towels** 1 large shower towel, 1 face/hand towel, and 1 beach towel. Quick dry towels are best!
- **Personal fan** Can rent at the center for \$5 with \$15 deposit.
- **Biodegradable toiletries and Laundry detergent**  
Basic items can be purchased in town, but you should plan to bring enough with you for at least a week. Dr. Bronners recommended.
- **Flash drives and/or External hard drive** At least 8 GB recommended.
- **Computer** that can open Microsoft Office documents offline and has a USB port.
- **Surge protector and Plug adaptors**
- **Wristwatch with extra batteries** Waterproof for snorkeling and SCUBA.
- **Headlamp or Flashlight with extra batteries**



- **Masks and COVID tests** Bring enough masks to last the duration of the program and 5+ home rapid tests.
- **Record of immunizations and Health history**
- **Personal first-aid kit** including Anti-itch creams, Neosporin, Bacitracin, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Pepto Bismol, Band-Aids, Tape, Tweezers, Nail clippers, Antihistamines, Pro-biotics, Antidiarrheals, Vitamin C, Cold medicines, Hydration salts, etc.
- **Prescriptions** Overseas prescriptions are not always accepted. You should bring adequate supplies of prescription medications with you to last the duration of your program alongside your doctor's prescription to avoid customs delays. Think about inhalers, allergy medication, contacts/glasses, etc.
- **Motion sickness medication/Dramamine/ginger chews** if you experience motion sickness.
- **Period care** You can purchase pads in town, but they are costly. Tampons are uncommon to find. We encourage you to use a menstrual cup or environmentally friendly, biodegradable options.
- **Day pack** Suitable for taking gear into the field. 15-30L recommended.
- **Water bottles** 2 bottles with at least 1L capacity each.
- **Reef Safe Sunscreen** 2+ bottles. Recommend creams over sprays.
- **Insect Repellent** 1+ bottles.
- **Notebooks and Pens/Pencils** for 3 classes.
- **Underwater slate and Pencils** at least 6x6. Alumni recommend flat slates over the wrist model.
- **Mr. Clean Magic Erasers** 2+ to clean underwater slate.
- **Dive Mask and Extra strap** Check for good fit and solid strap construction. Full-face masks and masks with prescription lenses are not recommended (use disposable contacts instead). ScubaPro, TUSA, Cressi, Mares, and Aqualung are reputable companies.
- **Snorkel** Full-sized adult snorkel.
- **Diving Booties or Wading/diving shoes** Hard or soft soled. Make sure they fit inside your fins.
- **Full sized Fins and Replacement straps and clips** that fit over your diving booties. Do not opt for "travel size"
- **Long-sleeved rash guard** 2+ to be used for all snorkel excursions.





# SCUBA Packing + Prices

The following items with a \* are included in SFS gear packages.

- **Buoyancy Compensator\* ("BCD")** Try on the BCD before purchasing it to ensure a good fit! You should stand sideways in front of a mirror and make sure that there is no gap between your shoulder blades and the BC. You may even want to consider connecting the BC to a tank before trying it on.
- **Primary (second stage) and secondary (second stage = octopus)\*** First stage must have a yoke connection, or you must bring a DIN to yoke adapter.
- **Alternate air source retainer\*** Retains second stage regulator close to the body. Helps prevent damage to the reef and to your equipment.
- **Save A Dive Kit\*** when purchasing your equipment, ask the dive shop to put one of these together for you. This should include fin straps, mask straps, spare computer batteries, mouthpieces, and bulbs for your flashlight. If you purchased the SCUBA package from us, you only need to bring extra mask and fin straps.

- **Dive Computer with at least 75% battery power** A dive computer that provides depth, time, and no-decompression limits is mandatory. Additional sensors for tank pressure are sometimes offered in this computer which is preferable. **If your dive computer does not have sensors for tank pressure, you will need a submersible pressure gauge (SPG).** There will be no opportunities to repair a dive computer that fails, so bring a backup battery and O-ring that you can change yourself. Because of the lack of repair facilities, even students with a dive computer should bring dive tables from their dive certification organization.
- **Console clip or retainer** Retains the console close to the body. Helps prevent damage to the reef and to your equipment. Retractors are available for purchase at the center for \$15 USD.
- **Clips or carabiners** to attach research equipment to your BCD, also available at the center. Stainless bolt snaps or double-enders gate clips work well.
- **Weight belt** **If your BCD does not have integrated weight pockets, you must bring a weight belt. DO NOT BRING WEIGHTS!** SCUBA tanks and weights are provided at the center.

OPTIONAL SCUBA COSTS	SEMESTER	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2	SUMMER 1 + 2
PADI Open Water Certification	\$550	\$550	N/A	\$550
PADI Advanced Open Water Certification	\$250	N/A	\$250	\$250
SCUBA Gear	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
DAN Insurance	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
ESTIMATED OPTIONAL SCUBA COSTS	\$1,875	\$1,625	\$1,325	\$1,875
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS WITH SCUBA (BASIC + ADDITIONAL + SCUBA COSTS)				
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROGRAM COST	\$35,275	\$12,925	\$12,625	\$23,074



# Optional Packing

- **Purse/tote bag** for town.
- **Small clothing repair kit**
- **Bandana, buff, or scarf**
- **Something white** to tie-dye.
- **Laundry bag**
- **Neoprene mask strap cover**
- **Additional swimwear** such as swim leggings, wetsuits, or dive skins (1-3mm).
- **Pocketknife and/or diving knife** Checked luggage only.
- **Underwater flashlight** for optional night dives/snorkels. Cannot participate without it.
- **Neon swim cap** for optional long-distance swims.
- **Dry bags or sturdy plastic bags** Gallon-sized Ziploc bags work well.
- **Hammock**
- **Tupperware and travel mugs** for packing snacks.
- **Items to donate to the community** School supplies, books, boardgames, and sporting equipment.

- **Swimmer's ear drops and eye drops** Highly recommended.
- **Hair oil and/or detangling conditioner**
- **Tiger balm and/or Lotion/aloe vera**
- **Earplugs and Eye mask**
- **Baby wipes and Hand sanitizer** Can purchase in town.
- **Journal, Games, Movies, and Books**
- **Fishing pole** license is \$30 for 30 days. No spearguns
- **Snacks, Drink powders, and Dietary supplements** Any favorites.
- **Reading lamp**
- **Camera**
- **Headphones and/or Bluetooth speaker**
- **Waterproof cases for electronics and silicone packets** (or some water-absorbing equivalent).
- **Binoculars** Preferably 8 x 40 but anything in the 6 x 30 to 10 x 40 range is fine.
- **Extra batteries and External battery packs**
- **Long charging cable**



## Contact Us

**Keep up with SFS** follow us on Instagram [@theSFS/](#)[@the\\_SFS\\_tci](#), read [news from the field](#), and find the [full list of the SFS team bios here!](#)

**Questions about billing?** [Billing@fieldstudies.org](mailto:Billing@fieldstudies.org)

Deposit payments, invoices, charges to your account, financial aid packages, billing deadlines, and loan paperwork.

**Questions about health and safety?** [StudentLife@fieldstudies.org](mailto:StudentLife@fieldstudies.org)

Medical paperwork, Immunizations, managing medical conditions during your program, and dietary needs and preferences.

**Questions about academics?** [Academics@fieldstudies.org](mailto:Academics@fieldstudies.org)

Learning accommodations, syllabi, and directed research.

**Questions about admissions or enrollment?** [Admissions@fieldstudies.org](mailto:Admissions@fieldstudies.org)

Which program is the best fit for you, application materials, travel and visa logistics, and other program-specific questions.