

SA 21239 (ASEC 43110) “Community Education & Engagement Methods in Transylvania”
Open Fields Foundation, USAMV-Cluj and Purdue University
Romania, May 11 – May 27, 2025 (V.2 - 7/26/2024)

Overall Arching Goal: Empowering Purdue and USAMV-Cluj students to become global citizens through immersive experiences in community engagement, youth development, sustainable agriculture, and cultural exchange in the beautiful Transylvanian rural Highlands.

Sunday, 11 May

Home or West Lafayette, IN

- Students individually or in groups arrange to travel and meet the class in Cluj-Napoca (CLJ)
- All are welcome to arrange to travel with class faculty members or in groups
(Leaving earlier or staying longer must be arranged well in advance with program leaders.)

Monday, 12 May (Purdue SA 21239 begins in CLJ Airport)

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

- Arrive in Cluj-Napoca by 3:30 PM (15:30) – hosted by the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca ([USAMV](#)) and the [Open Fields Foundation](#).
- Meet USAMV student classmates and check in to lodging in Cluj near the USAMV (Agronomia?)
- Class meeting, discuss policies and procedures for visit – group reflection
- tour of city center with USAMV students

Tuesday, 13 May

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

- 8:30 – breakfast at lodging location
- Meeting with USAMV students and welcome by administration, tour campus facilities, laboratories hosted by the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca ([USAMV](#))
- Lunch at USAMV and then visit [Alexandru Borza Botanical Garden](#) with USAMV faculty and students
- Lodging in Cluj near the USAMV – faculty rent car at CLJ airport
- Class meeting, discuss community projects and reflection

Wednesday, 14 May

Cluj-Napoca to Biertan Commune, Romania

- 8:00 – breakfast at lodging location
- Load bus and depart for host villages
- Cluj-Napoca to Valchid, Copsa Mare, Biertan (for teachers), Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania
- Welcome by Hoghilag / Biertan / Mosna mayor, and then an overview meeting with Open Fields staff, teachers and hosts.
- Meet at a central location and introduce the students to their #1 host families or deliver student groups to their family homes in Valchid, Moșna, Nemsă, Richis and Copsa Mare. Students engaged in hosts’ activities, lodging and reflections.
- Faculty check in at lodging in Biertan hostel.

[Each student group will work together and collaborate with Open Fields staff to assist with an on-going community project and assist and learn about our hosts. Your group will collaborate with a local organization and collect data to inform an environmental assessment of community challenges including those affecting community food security.]

Thursday, 15 May

Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania

- Student teams engage in host family activities and livelihoods. Faculty visit host families every 1-2 days.
- Students engaged in hosts’ activities, lodging and reflections.

Friday, 16 May

Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania

- Student teams engage in host family activities and livelihoods.
- Students engaged in hosts’ activities, lodging and reflections.

Saturday, 17 May **Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania**

- Maybe visit Biertan Fortress? Other local tourist sites?
- Students engaged in hosts' activities, lodging and reflections.

Sunday, 18 May **Sibiu, Romania**

- Bus picks up Purdue and USAMV students and travel to visit Sibiu (invite host youth to join us)
- Students engaged in hosts' activities, lodging and reflections.

Monday, 19 May **Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania**

- Student teams engage in host family activities and livelihoods. Faculty visit host families every 1-2 days.
- Students engaged in hosts' activities, lodging and reflections.
- Student groups rotate before dinner to 2nd host lodging)

Tuesday, 20 May **Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania**

- Student teams engage in host family activities and livelihoods.
- Students engaged in hosts' activities, lodging and reflections.

Wednesday, 21 May **Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania**

- Student teams engage in host family activities and livelihoods.
- Students engaged in hosts' activities, lodging and reflections.

Thursday, 22 May **Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania**

- Student teams engage in host family activities and livelihoods.
- Students engaged in hosts' activities, lodging and reflections.

Friday, 23 May **Valchid, Copsa Mare, Richis, Mosna and Nemsă, Romania**

- Student teams engage in host family activities and livelihoods.
- Students engaged in 2nd hosts' activities, lodging and reflections. A collective gathering, celebration?

Saturday, 24 May **Biertan Fortress or Sighisoara, Romania**

- Thank You's and departure. Bus/Vans pick up Purdue and USAMV students and travel to tourist site.
- Lodging at a Hostel in Sighisoara Saturday night

Sunday, 25 May **Sighisoara to Viscri to Cluj, Romania**

- Visit UNESCO site Saschiz, or Viscri
- Travel to Cluj-Napoca, lodging
- Lodging in Cluj – Agronomia?

Monday, 26 May **Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

- Breakfast and final reflection meeting with Open Fields leadership – where? Agronomia?
- Class ends upon departure from CLJ airport - fly home or explore Europe
- Arrive home on 27 May or later

This program is an immersive journey designed to instill a sense of global citizenship. Through hands-on experiences with youth and community leaders, cultural exchanges, and community engagement, we believe this experience will equip Purdue students to be proactive contributors to global sustainability and advocates for positive change. Get ready to embark on a transformative adventure in Romania.