Romania Study Abroad Summer Program
Babes-Boylai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania


This course is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Students taking the course for credit will earn three or six credit hours and may be eligible for student loans.

**Dates:**
2) In-country instruction: in Romania, May 24-June 7, 2012 (Departure June 8)
3) (optional) 70–Hour Service Learning/Field placement: June 8-21, 2012 (Depart 6/22)

**Course Hours:** This course utilizes a combination of online and in-country instruction for a 3-hour credit course and an optional 3-hour service learning experience. Social work students that choose the 70-hour service learning experience can apply those hours to their field placement hours in their Fall/Spring Field Education Hours.

**Course Description:** The aim of the course is to examine the response to growing concerns for vulnerable populations in the years since the initiation of social welfare reforms in Post-Communist Romania and other countries in the former Soviet Bloc. Specifically we look at how countries that are transitioning to democracies are moving from residential care to family-focused, community care. Of particular interest will be minority and disenfranchised groups such as the Roma (gypsy) and children separated from their parents. Students will learn comparative perspectives on social work practice and social welfare structures around the globe, drawing from the academic literature and research initiatives of national and international non-governmental (NGO’s) and governmental organizations. The emergence of promising practices are studied using a framework that incorporates common elements of need for various risk groups across the life cycle, and highlights preventative and home-based care over institutional care that can be applied across borders. The framework includes: policies and laws, the structure of programs and services, human resource capacity, and outcome measures and evaluation. Students will have an opportunity to integrate the classroom learning into practice through a service learning experience in a community-based organization.

**Course Format:** Students should arrive in Cluj on May 23, 2012. The course will be based in Cluj, Romania (Transylvania) at Babes-Boylai University. Students will stay in university housing with classes in the morning and field visits in the afternoon to local and national governmental and non-governmental health and social welfare organizations. Romanian social work educators, researchers and practitioners will join us for both didactic and field experiences.

**Program Leader:** Rebecca Davis, Ph. D., Director and Lecturer, Center for International Social Work, Rutgers School of Social Work. <redavis@ssw.rutgers.edu>

**Program Estimated Costs:** The cost of this trip, not including airfare, is approximately $1500 for the first 2 weeks and $1000 for Service Learning/Field Enrichment Program. This includes in-country accommodations at the University Inn, one weekend excursion, museum fees and at least one traditional dinner. Other meals and individual travel are not included.

**Additional Information:** Rutgers Study Abroad <studyabroad.rutgers.edu>