History of the Estonia Morocco Cross-Cultural Psychology Program

This unique program, offered every other year, was initiated in the spring of 2001 by psychology professor Larry White, who was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Tartu, Estonia, in 1997-98. In the program’s first year, students began their studies in Morocco and then moved to Estonia. Since 2002, however, the program has been offered in the fall and begins in Estonia before moving to Morocco mid-semester.

In Estonia, the program is based at the University of Tartu’s Psychology Institute, which is widely regarded as the preeminent psychology department in the Baltic States. Students live with host families and take courses with local instructors. Estonian students join with Beloit students in the program’s centerpiece course on cross-cultural psychology, taught by the program director.

In Morocco, the program is based at the Arabic Language Institute of Fes, known for the high quality of its language and culture instruction. Students live with host families, either in the historic medina or the Ville Nouvelle, which was built by the French in the years before World War II. Students take modular courses taught by local experts and complete the second half of the cross-cultural study they initiated in Estonia.

Larry White served as the program’s director in 2001, 2002, and 2008 and will direct the program again in 2010. Other program directors from Beloit College’s Psychology department include Greg Buchanan (2004 and 2006) and Kristin Bonnie (2012).

The Estonia/Morocco program is open to students from other colleges.