

University of Louisville

Division of Student Affairs

International Service Learning Program

**ISLP PROGRAM SYLLABUS**

**General Information**

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**Overview of ISLP**

The University of Louisville International Service Learning Program (ISLP) provides experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development. This interdisciplinary program contributes to campus internationalization by infusing the classroom with various cultures to prepare students to be more receptive to global and comparative perspectives.

**Purpose of ISLP Orientation Classes**

The purpose of the orientation classes is to provide all participants the skills and competencies needed to engage in an inter-disciplinary service-learning program. Participants will better understand their specific roles as service providers to the host country and how best to be a guest in another culture. In addition, participants will become familiar with the host country through the study of its people, cultures, religions, history, political systems, and geography.

**Learning Objectives for Students**

1. Integration of academic course content with practical experience in a structured manner will

increase students’ critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills.

1. Through realistic self-appraisal and reflection, students will demonstrate personal growth

through clarification of values and enhanced self-esteem.

1. Students will develop an increased sense of social responsibility and appreciation for diversity

through an understanding of the social, political, religious, and cultural constructs of the host community.

1. Students will learn how their intended career choices may be viewed or practiced in different

cultural contexts.

1. Students will learn the importance of teamwork, balance, and relationships to achieve satisfying and productive lifestyles.

**Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated through their specific academic courses and faculty. Students groups will be expected to complete a web page and power point presentation that promotes the program and depicts their student experience. Attendance and participation in the orientation workshops will directly influence the final grade in the respective courses.

**Orientation Workshop Attendance**

Attendance at and participation in the orientation classes is required for all participants.

**Accommodations**

Students having difficulty with any of the materials (including differently-abled students such as documented learning disabilities, vision or hearing impairments, or physical disabilities) must contact the appropriate faculty member no later than the evening of August 15 (for December programs), January 5 (for Spring Break programs and May programs) if accommodations are required. Students should also contact the Disabilities Resource Center during business hours to submit appropriate documentation and register for special accommodations. Given the nature and physical demands of international travel, not all abilities may be accommodated.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is at the core of the educational mission of the institution. Students are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and forthrightness in all academic and personal interactions within the University community, United States, and host countries. A student who enrolls at the University must conduct himself/herself in a manner compatible with the university's function as an education institution. Consequently, conduct that offends the core mission of education is strictly prohibited. Academic dishonesty is a general term for actions that are not representative of the student's own work or in keeping with the directives of the faculty member assigning course work. Some of the more common forms (not a comprehensive list) of academic dishonesty are: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, theft of or misuse of any course material or testing material, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Students are strongly encouraged to review the University policies on academic integrity.

**Syllabus Changes and Snow Days**

The faculty reserves the right to deviate from this schedule as necessary. It is the student’s obligation to stay current with information provided in the workshops. If permitted to miss a workshop, you must insure that you receive and/or make up any and all material provided. You will be held accountable for all of it regardless of your attendance. All orientation workshops will be held as scheduled unless classes are canceled for that evening due to snow or other natural concern.

**Expectations**

Participants in the ISLP are members of one large delegation that represents the University of Louisville and the United States of America. How individuals behave or react to situations as they arrive will often reflect upon all members of the delegation. For this reason, several participant guidelines are provided for all participants of the program. Although these are limited in number, common courtesies and respect for others should always be displayed.

1. Students are required to attend each session of the orientation workshops.
2. Students are expected to be prepared for all orientation workshops.
3. Students are expected to complete group and individual assignments on time and with effort and professionalism.
4. Students are expected to try to improve interpersonally and professionally through regular contributions in class discussions, consulting tours, exercises, and written and verbal work.
5. Students are expected to be honest and professional in expressing and owning opinions and statements.
6. Students are expected to follow University policies on academic integrity.
7. Except for food allergies there will be no food accommodations provided so please adjust your needs and expectations accordingly. (The food in host countries may not be all that you desire or may want. Be courteous.)
8. Students are expected to be on time. Being on time is essential to smooth operations of the program since one individual being tardy can detain the entire group.
9. Individuals are not permitted to leave the hotel unless they have the permission from their course faculty member and are accompanied by both their “buddy” and a faculty.
10. It is important to maintain one’s professional distance with the people in the communities. This includes personal commitments and promises such as inviting individuals to the U.S.
11. Students are expected to travel with their “school team” the entire duration of the program. This means no late arrivals or early departures.
12. Please wear appropriate (designated) attire to workshops and in the host country. Many areas outside of the United States are very conservative. When in a host country it is critical that appropriate attire be worn as specified during orientation.
13. When in a host country please wear your UofL name badge where appropriate.
14. Please never forget that you will be in a host country, outside of the United States, and that the ISLP is an educational experience. Accommodations will not be perfect, schedules will be changed, dining will be unique, travel schedules will be modified, and many other possible inconveniences will challenge you. Be positive and respectful. Adapt and enjoy. You are not expected to save the region.
15. Be mindful that you are a guest in the country and that you are an ambassador of the University of Louisville and the United States of America. Always respect and adhere to the local customs of the country and the communities.
16. Under no circumstances is smoking/dipping permitted in or near the hotel or the worksites. Many structures are constructed of wood and the communities have limited firefighting resources. As a courtesy, please do not smoke when near others participating in the program.
17. You are strongly advised to keep money and all valuables in a safe place. Always have your passport with you and safely secured at all times.
18. Never surrender your passport – NEVER.

**Other Expectations of Note**

1. Participants are not permitted to operate motor vehicles or golf carts while in a host country unless permitted by your faculty.
2. Snorkeling is permitted in designated areas only. Ask if you are not sure of the designated areas.
3. As necessary, life vests should be worn at all times while in water craft.

Representing the University of Louisville and the citizens of the United States of America is the utmost privilege and priority as ambassadors to a host country. Participants that fail to meet these expectations may be sent home immediately at the student’s ultimate expense.