

# Application for Campus Ministry's International Service-Immersion Experience

Completed applications are due in to the Campus Ministry Office, OM 207 on or before  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## *A Completed Application Will Include the Following:*

- This completed paper application
- 3 photocopies of your passport picture page stapled to the front of this application. *If you do not have your passport, please attach a head shot of yourself to the upper left hand corner of this application.*
- Signed Covenant (at end of application)
- One-page Essay
- Sign-up for Interview (to be done AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION by going to Lu Firestone's office (OM 211) and signing up to interview for your FIRST CHOICE trip!)

## Section 1: Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Dorm/Local Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address/Dorm Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents/Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum 2.5) Year: 1 2 3 4 G

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: F M T-shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

List clubs, groups, sports, honors societies or anything else you are currently involved in at Canisius:

### Program applying to:

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 member Team Ecuador (tentative dates: May 21<sup>st</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>)

\_\_\_\_\_ 15 member Team Jamaica (tentative dates: May 21<sup>st</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>)

\_\_\_\_\_ 12 member Team El Salvador (tentative dates: May 21<sup>st</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>)

\_\_\_\_\_ 14 member Team Poland (tentative dates: July 7<sup>th</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>)

*\*\*Applications for Team India come out in January for the following year's Winter Break trip.*

**\*You can apply for 2 different trips in the same year.** If you want to do this, please mark down your first and second choice above. However, sign up to interview for your first choice **ONLY**. If you are not accepted and your second choice still needs people we will contact you about interviewing for that trip.

## Our International Experiences at a Glance

Every International Experience with Campus Ministry will be on the spectrum of service to immersion—that is, direct hands-on action all the way to what is often the much harder ministry of being with, listening to and learning from the people we serve. While each one of our trips is different, the overall objective for them all is the same. The programs seek to expose you to people who are impoverished and marginalized in order to challenge your preconceived notions about the world and transform you into women and men who are committed to justice and to serving others. We offer the following experiences and encourage you to *please explore all of your options before applying and make sure you know what you are signing up for!* If you see a trip that is a better fit for you, please wait until that application season and apply accordingly.

*Before applying, be sure to learn more about our trips by visiting us at:*  
[http://www.canisius.edu/camp\\_minist/service\\_trips.asp](http://www.canisius.edu/camp_minist/service_trips.asp)

### **This application is for the following experiences:**

#### **The Working Boys Center in Quito, Ecuador**

Travel for two weeks to the capital city of Quito to serve at the Working Boys Center—a project geared at alleviating the cycle of poverty for the families of children working on the streets. Half of our time will be spent engaging in physical work such as painting or cleaning at the Center or, for one day, doing a large scale “minga” or “work gang” on a home. The other half of our time will be spent engaging the children at the Center in an educational environment – either as aides in classrooms or in one-on-one tutoring or in special English lessons at night. This is a great introductory trip that highlights working with kids and is the perfect combination of service and immersion! But space is limited – we can only accept 6 new students on this team!

*Tentative Dates: Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>                      Approximate cost: \$1,500*

#### **Hands-On in Jamaica**

Become part of a two-week service trip into Kingston, where our focus will be working with our hands – both in the capital Kingston and in rural Jamaica. We will begin doing home repairs in underserved neighborhoods surrounding Kingston as well as visiting social service agencies such as soup kitchens, basis schools and homes for the elderly or orphaned. We will then travel to rural Jamaica where we will help work on a “Security Farm” – where food is grown for the poor. This might involve farming, painting, constructing things – or whatever is needed! This is a great introductory trip for people who like to labor in the hot sun – one of our most service-oriented experiences! An added perk - Jamaicans speak English!

*Tentative Dates: Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>                      Approximate cost: \$1,500*

## **War, Peace and the Pursuit of Justice in El Salvador**

Become part of a two-week immersion trip into El Salvador, learning directly from the people about their struggle through a brutal civil war that pitted the wealthy few (with strong international support) against the poor (with the Catholic Church alongside the people!). We will contrast this history with the search for justice, peace and opportunity in El Salvador today, including witnessing the everyday reality of the poor via an overnight home stay in a very rural community. Canisius students can expect this to be primarily an immersion experience that focuses on being with and learning from the people of El Salvador. This is a great opportunity for people interested in exploring the complexities of social justice, international relations, human rights and Catholic studies. Because of the subject matter, this is an intense trip and requires a mature applicant.

***Tentative Dates: Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>***

***Approximate cost: \$1,450***

## **Summer Camp for At-Risk Children in Poland**

Become part of a three-week intensive summer camp for foster children (ages 2-14) in the rolling hills of Southern Poland. This is the second half of a summer camp experience where volunteers (both Canisius students and Polish college students) become the “aunties” and “uncles” of these children, caring for them on all levels. To succeed on this trip YOU MUST LOVE KIDS! That is because you will be eating, sleeping and living with them 24/7 in a “family” that might not include another English speaker. Because of the tight quarters, rigorous schedule and language barriers, this is an intense trip and requires a mature applicant—but it will capture your heart! This trip is another one of our most service-orientated experiences.

***Tentative Dates: Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>***

***Approximate cost: \$2,100***

## **Applications will be out in Spring 2012 for the following experience:**

### **Untouchability in India**

Travel for two-weeks to India to explore the Dalit (or Untouchable) situation. Our team will partner with the Jesuits at Loyola College in Chennai on either end of our experience for an introduction to Indian life, culture and religion and for touring local religious sites, such as temples, mosques, ashrams and churches. The majority of our time will be spent together with the Jesuits in their Chennai Mission in rural India. In the mornings we will work directly with Dalit children teaching English lessons at a high school. Our afternoons will be spent meeting with village leaders, human rights centers, writers, priests, women’s groups and other key figures in the afternoons who will educate us about the reality of the Dalit struggle for justice. This is a great combination of both service and immersion. Because of the nature of what we are studying and the physical toll of traveling such long distances, this is an intense exposure trip and requires a mature participant!

***Tentative Dates: Winter Break 2012***

***Approximate Cost: \$2,400***

*For any further questions about our international experiences,  
please contact Lu Firestone in Campus Ministry at: [firestol@canisius.edu](mailto:firestol@canisius.edu)*

***\*Some scholarship help is available on a case-by-case basis for high needs students.***

## Section 2: Service Background Information

Going abroad with Campus Ministry on one of our International Service-Immersion Experiences is not a vacation. It is a unique opportunity to work alongside the marginalized and be exposed to their reality. We are looking for candidates who have a proven commitment to service. If you feel that your experience is lacking in this area, please consider joining us in Campus Ministry this year for Winter Service Week or for an Alternative Spring Break trip to strengthen your background of service and then apply for an international trip the following year.

Have you ever participated in a Service Trip before, either at Canisius or elsewhere? Please explain.

What service have you done here at Canisius College (besides service trips)?

What service have you done outside of Canisius?

Have you ever traveled internationally before? Please explain.

Which language have you studied and what is the highest level you have taken (*No foreign language abilities are required for any of our trips*):

Please provide us with the name and phone number of a person who has been a leader on a service experience you participated in or who can speak about your commitment to service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please Note: Students will not be able to participate in both ASB (Alternative Spring Break) and an International Service-Immersion Trip in the course of one school year.** Please decide which you would prefer to do this year and apply accordingly.

### **Section 3: Spiritual Background Information**

You are applying for a Campus Ministry program. If you are selected for one of our International Service-Immersion Experiences, you do not have to be Catholic, Christian or even practicing a religion, but you do have to be willing to engage your spirituality or sense of ethics in our preparation process, in the reflections we have each night while abroad and in your experience as a whole. Every night on each of our trips, we spend an hour reflecting about our day through the eyes of our faith, values and sense of justice. If you are not practiced in sharing about your spiritual life, you might try joining a Christian Life Community (CLCs are small faith sharing groups of students who meet together weekly) or sign up for Kairos or one of Campus Ministry's other retreats in order to strengthen your application.

What is your faith background and practice, if any?

Have you ever been on a retreat or a part of a CLC or another faith-based club at Canisius before? Please explain.

Are you comfortable praying with other people or sharing personally and deeply from your heart? When have you done this in the past?

What else can you tell us about your history of engaging your spirituality with your life and/or your willingness to engage your spirituality on this experience?

## Section 4: Health

Please provide us with the following information so that we can keep you safe abroad (*Please note that any information turned in to Campus Ministry will remain confidential.*):

1. Do you have any dietary restrictions?
2. Do you have any allergies?
3. What medications are you currently on?
4. What health conditions, if any, should we know about?

## Section 5: Essay

Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, implored in his talk to the students, staff, faculty and alumni of a Jesuit University in the United States:

*“Students, in the course of their formation, must let the gritty reality of this world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering and engage it constructively. They should learn to perceive, think, judge, choose and act for the rights of others, especially the disadvantaged and the oppressed.*

**Campus Ministry’s mission** in running these international service-immersion experiences is to expose you to people who are impoverished and oppressed in order to challenge your preconceived notions about the world and transform you into women and men who are committed to justice and to serving others. In a separate **one-page essay**, please answer the following questions:

- How have your personal experiences and values drawn you to a program with our mission?
- How do you see this trip as an integral part of your educational experience here at Canisius College?
- Why did you choose to apply to your first-choice trip instead of the others?

## Section 6: Reference

Think of one person that can speak about how you have performed in the past in a stressful situation. Perhaps you have gone on another service trip before and the leader could speak on your behalf? Perhaps you worked at a summer camp or at an intense job and your supervisor could speak on your behalf? Perhaps you organized a project or led a team before and your teammates could speak on your behalf? Please try to make this a non-academic reference. Family members do not qualify as references.

Name and Contact Info of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

How you know this person: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Credit is available for our immersion experiences!** If you are interested in incorporating more academic work into your experience, there are ways for you to receive credit for your immersion experience from the Departments of Modern Languages, Philosophy and Sociology. Upon acceptance into our program, more information will be available about these opportunities.

## **Covenant of Participation and Behavior for Campus Ministry's International Service-Immersion Experiences**

**Although you are signing up voluntarily for this experience, the preparation process is lengthy and demanding.** For at least 7-months, we require participants to actively learn about their travel destination, their teammates, a variety of social justice issues and our four cornerstone values via workshops, trainings, readings, and events. This is also the time when you fundraise. These preparatory events are mandatory and your ability to travel with us is contingent upon you joining us.

**Once you leave to go abroad, remember that you are not on vacation—these kinds of trips are stressful!** We will be eating new foods, sleeping in tight quarters, being at the whim of someone else's schedule, struggling with a language barrier and will have limited contact with our families. All of these factors will challenge your ability to stay rested, positive, flexible and focused. However, that is exactly what we will expect from you. While participating on one of Campus Ministry's Service Immersion Experiences, we as representatives of Canisius College need to be responsible for our conduct. We need to be culturally sensitive, careful about our safety, willing to settle for less than the comforts we experience at home, flexible about our needs, willing to live by standards of behavior that perhaps are higher than in our home culture, and at all times remain focused on our reason for being abroad. **The success of our programs depends on a high degree of personal maturity and responsibility on the part of participants.** Therefore, every participant will be held accountable to:

### **The Preparation Process**

I understand that if selected onto an international service-immersion team, I am required to attend monthly Weekend Workshops and monthly team meetings organized by the student leaders of my trip. I understand that I will be expected to read books and articles, watch movies and attend speakers throughout the year related to social justice issues or my destination in particular. Furthermore, I understand that not fulfilling these preparation requirements jeopardizes my ability to travel with my team. Below is a schedule of Weekend Workshops for my records:

- **Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-6:00 in the Undercroft of the Chapel** – Kick Off the Mission Workshop
- **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00-6:00 in Grupp** - Global Justice Workshop
- **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-6:00 in Grupp** – Explore your Country Workshop
- **Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-6:00 in Grupp** - Retreat Workshop
- **Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-3:00pm in the Undercroft** – Plunge Into Buffalo
- **Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00pm-10:30pm in the Undercroft** – Last Minute Details

### **Our Cornerstone Values**

Our service-immersion program is centered on the following cornerstone values:

1. **Social Justice:** Social Justice is not only working alongside the underserved—it is committing to explore the causes of injustice and oppression and to take action on behalf of the common good. A commitment to justice involves challenging our acquired ways of thinking and feeling. It challenges us to allow the pain, anger and helplessness of others to have an impact on us. As privileged members of our society, we have a responsibility to seek to understand and help to change the structures that create poverty and oppression:
  - I will listen to and work with those who are more disadvantaged than I and will pursue solidarity with them
  - I will strive to become just in my own thoughts, language and actions
  - I will seek to know the truth of situations, rather than relying on my prejudices and biases
  - I will strive to explore the spiritual side of poverty and injustice

- 2. Simplicity:** While traveling, you will be forced to live without a lot of the comforts you rely on here at Canisius. To get the most out of this experience, we ask that you shed your desire for material comforts and the use of technology as a crutch for communication in favor of embracing the richness of a simpler lifestyle that focuses on building face-to-face relationships with others. Living the simple life is liberating and energizing because you become centered less on things and more on people.
- I will seek the richness of life focused on people and their needs more than on my comfort or my acquisition of things
  - I will strive to remain open to differences of opinions and behaviors as they present themselves in the encounters with those of another culture
  - I will not seek to bring my ways, my food, my language or my mentality to the people I encounter, but rather seek to experience the richness of what is theirs
  - I will cultivate a positive outlook, realizing that cultural conditions may be more harsh and less comfortable than those I am used to at home
- 3. Solidarity:** When we are in solidarity, we are pursuing what is best not just for ourselves but for the common good. Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress you might feel abroad when witnessing the misfortune of so many. Rather, it is the firm and persevering determination to act in favor of the well being of all, especially those who are most poor and marginalized. This is a Gospel value and essential in working towards lasting peace. Solidarity demands openness, flexibility, tolerance, deep compassion and sustained action for justice for all.
- I will be open and honest with other community members and willing to share part of my life with them.
  - I will actively participate in the team's activities from beginning to end with an attitude of respect and working together for a shared goal.
  - I will seek to accompany the people I meet as a companion on their road to justice and liberation.
  - I will not seek to "accomplish" so much as to listen, learn and patiently plant seeds that may not bear fruit until long after I am gone.
  - I will commit once home to working in some way on behalf of the marginalized in this world.
- 4. Spirituality:** This international experience is an opportunity to interface your real world experiences with your faith. You will see and hear things that will make you feel uncomfortable – startling poverty, people living without hope because they are living without access to the basic necessities of education and health, countries who have been the pawns of the foreign policies of the United States. Living the value of spirituality means living as "contemplatives in action", reflecting on God's presence in all the gritty complexities of the world.
- I will allow the reality of my experiences to sink deeply into my heart and challenge my assumptions and will commit to growing in spirituality together with my team.
  - I will attempt to find God in all things, especially the gritty complexity of the world.
  - I will use our reflection sessions each night as a time to ask what my faith has to say about the situations I am witnessing and the people I am meeting and I will not shy away from bringing a critical awareness to the situation.
  - I will willingly pray with my team when the spirit moves us and respectfully attend any religious services my team is asked to go to.



## Personal Conduct:

Having a safe and respectful experience is our goal. The following therefore are very important:

- **I will not make decisions that affect the group or the program independently of the team leaders.** Rather, I understand that I am just one part of a larger team and that following the rules and guidelines set forth by my leadership team will keep our entire team safe and healthy.
- **I will never go off-site on my own.** Rather, I will always be with at least one other team member and before leaving I will check with the team leaders to make sure they know where we are going and for how long.
- **I will never drink alcoholic beverages.** I understand that this is a service trip not a vacation. We are here to learn and serve.
- **I will neither bring, buy, nor use illegal drugs at any time.** I understand that if I violate this policy I will be sent home at my own expense.
- **I will not engage in sexual behavior.** I realize that engaging in sexual behavior could: 1) risk alienating those that we have come to visit, 2) raise questions about my motives to participate in this exposure trip, 3) jeopardize the integrity and future of Campus Ministry trips, 4) potentially cause division among those of the group, 5) potentially have lasting legal ramifications that I am not aware of, 6) and would not be consistent with the values of our Catholic, Christian college. Therefore, I will conduct myself with integrity in regard to my sexual behavior. I will not physically “couple-up” with another member of this group or with a local. I understand that if I violate this policy I will be sent home at my own expense.

## Financially Responsibility

Although Campus Ministry will do our best to help you fundraise in the months leading up to your service experience, ultimately you are responsible for the cost of the trip. Your personal fundraising initiative and creativity will go furthest in helping you to meet your goal. Below are the different financial deadlines that you need to meet to continue on with your team.

- **A \$200 out-of-pocket deposit due before I leave for Christmas Break.** Failing to pay this symbolically says that I am not committed to this trip and threatens my ability to continue on this team.
- **The cost of your plane ticket is due Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**
- **The total cost of your trip is due Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**
- I understand that if I am struggling to raise money and need scholarship help, it is my responsibility to be pro-active and approach Campus Ministry to learn about my options. My silence threatens my chances of receiving scholarship help.
- **I understand that I can only qualify for scholarship help if I participate in the Letter-Writing Campaign fundraiser organized by Campus Ministry.**
- I understand that all money turned in to Campus Ministry is **non-refundable**.
- In the event that a trip is cancelled for unforeseen reasons (this has happened in the past due to an outbreak of a disease or a security concern in the country where you will be traveling), Campus Ministry will do everything possible to refund you the full cost. However, I understand that some expenses might be lost and are beyond Campus Ministry’s control.

**Placing your name after this statement indicates that you have read, understood, and agreed to abide by all of the above:**

**Name:**

**Date:**