



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS MINISTRY IMMERSION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Campus Ministry Immersion programs provides transformative faith based opportunities for students to engage in local and global realities.

Thank you for applying to a **Campus Ministry Immersion Program for 2012-2013!** These experiences require a demonstrated and lived commitment to faith, service, social justice, and building community. Applicants will be selected for an interview based on their consistent commitment to volunteer service, their desire for social justice, their experience in community, and their faith/spiritual development. We are sorry we cannot grant an interview to all applicants, so we encourage you to answer carefully and thoughtfully the questions within this application.

2012-2013 APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

Information Nights: **March 29th & April 2nd** at 7:00 PM – Bannon 202

Applications Due: **May 18th** by 4:30 PM in Campus Ministry or emailed to brays@seattleu.edu

Interviews with Immersion Leadership: **May 20th- June 1st**

Immersion Placements Announced via email: **June 1st**

IMMERSION PROGRAM: What Am I committing to?

PREFORMATION

This is the first step on the journey together. During this segment of the immersion program students engage in fundraising, community building and participate in a service reflection day. Fundraising commitments will depend on the planning of each group. Every immersion group will meet 2-3 times Fall quarter to build community. Students will also participate in a Service Reflection Day in Fall Quarter exploring the realities of the marginalized and vulnerable on the streets around Seattle University. Students will be presented with dates during interview sessions.

FORMATION

The quarter prior to travel students meet for weekly two-hour sessions to explore more deeply the values of justice, solidarity, simplicity, community and spirituality. Students are introduced historical, social, economic, political realities of the communities they will visit. Throughout our meetings students will explore Catholic Social Teachings, Ignatian spirituality, social location & privilege, globalization, group dynamics and theologies models for reflection. Students gain skills for critical reflection, enter into dialogue and explore the richness of prayer.

TRAVEL

MEXICO: Cost: \$950 Travel Dates: December 8th-15th 2012

Participants fly to San Diego and drive across the border into La Gloria, Mexico, where they reside and work for a week. We partner with Esperanza International, a non-profit organization which organizes communities and offers construction assistance to families living in substandard housing. During the weekdays, participants join families in the construction of simple concrete homes. The labor-intensive construction activities include digging foundations, pouring of concrete roofs, assembling brick walls, laying of roof tiles, and other strenuous physical activity. In addition, participants learn about the people, history, economy, and culture of Mexico through speakers, cultural events, tours, and direct contact with the border and the people of Tijuana. Students engage in nightly prayer opportunities, conversations and reflection upon our experiences. Participants in this experience build relationships, "brick by brick" in the colonias of Tijuana while exploring issues of borders, trade, worker rights, global solidarity and migration.

Belize: Cost: \$1600 Travel dates: March 23rd-30th, 2013

Belize is a very unique Central American country... With its legacy of British colonialism, it is the only country in the region to have English as its national language (although Creole, Spanish, and other languages are often heard on the street). The Belize

Outreach began in 1992 and is designed to help students gain an understanding of the beautiful multicultural society in Belize, a developing nation. We approach our ten days in Belize with the simple desire to be with Belizean people and to serve by listening. It is a true gift to be able to encounter the diversity of Belize through its people. We will hear local speakers addressing topics pertinent to the lives of Belizeans, spend time with members of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps International, and meet with high school students at St. John's College, a Jesuit school in Belize City. The outreach trip also includes regular reflections, which provide the opportunity to look upon our experiences in light of our faith. The variety of opportunities to be one-on-one with people in Belize city is truly what makes the Belize Immersion unique. Students may work in a health clinic, care for the elderly poor, provide meals, visit elderly at a daytime care center, or be with young children and youth at a school, the YWCA, or a child care center.

Appalachia: Cost: \$900 Travel dates: March 23rd-30th, 2013

The Appalachian Catholic Worker Farm strives to live the Gospel in light of Catholic Social Teaching. Their goal is to provide a center of spirituality and hope with and for the people of the mountains. Through programs that promote social justice, The Appalachia Catholic Worker serves local people while attempting to address both the causes and effects of poverty in the region. Students are truly immersed in the Appalachia region learning about the beauty of the land, its culture and customs, through the mountain people who know it and express it best. The Catholic Worker's unique service program includes much more than just the swinging of hammers. Through hard work, simple living, a trip to coal country, social analysis, and evening reflections students will be experiencing Catholic Social Teaching first hand. The Appalachian Catholic Worker invites students to step out of their comfort zones, to break down stereotypes, and work to build community among the local people, as well as within the group. Students may work at chopping, hauling, and stacking wood, fixing fence, bailing and stacking hay, gardening, house cleaning, painting, yard work, small building/demolition projects, and visiting the elderly and youth. This experience is focused on building relationships, exploring simplicity, confronting environmental justice issues, and finding community.

INTEGRATION

Returning from travel to marginalized areas and building relationship with the poor can often shake us to our foundations. These experiences open us to new revelations about the world and ourselves. Many times our hearts are broken in the process and this can lead to despair or helplessness if unprocessed. This segment of our program assists students in moving through the broken heartedness to becoming open hearts of compassion. Each group will gather together for a ½ day on campus retreat to reflect, pray together, and learn about Ignatian tools for discernment. Students are given tools to allow them to integrate their experience with their education and formation for being leaders for just and humane world.

COMMITMENT: Campus Ministry Immersions Programs require students to make a significant commitment to the immersion program. Students will must commit to full participation in each phase of the program, in their group and to completing their financial obligation. Students are allowed to miss no more than 2 meetings and the service reflection day and integration retreat are mandatory.

FUNDING: Students are required to meet 3 deadlines for deposits prior to their travel. Campus Ministry encourages groups to collaborate on fundraising efforts. Groups have created and committed to a number of successful fundraising opportunities. Campus Ministry supports but is not responsible for group fundraising. Campus Ministry is committed to ensuring that finances do not preclude a student from participating in our Immersion Program. If financial investment in our program is a concern please contact Seán Bray to schedule a meeting.

DEPOSIT: If placed on an immersion experience, you will be asked to commit and submit a \$300.00 non-refundable deposit with your Immersion Program "Commitment Form" by Tuesday, May 29th.

QUESTIONS/CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions about Immersion Programs or the application, please feel free to contact:

Seán Bray
Campus Minister for Social Justice
206-296-6079
brays@seattlu.edu

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR IMMERSION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Before you begin this process we invite you to find a quiet space and to light a candle. Allow yourself the space to quiet your mind and become aware of your breathing and your heartbeat. Once you have found a quiet space begin by reading through the program descriptions, expectations and question. Try to imagine yourself in this program. Notice where you feel anxiety and where you feel excitement. Then begin by reflecting on the questions below and finally complete the application and sign.

Please type your answers to these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is calling you to be a part of an immersion program through Campus Ministry? (Why did you choose this particular experience at this point in your life?)
2. How do you think participating in this program will contribute to your educational experience at Seattle University?
3. Please list the volunteer opportunities you've participated in, either in high school or at SU, and designate which experiences were for an academic course and which you sought out on your own.
4. Tell us about an encounter during one of your service experiences that challenged your understanding? (Describe an interaction you had with the poor, marginalized and/or vulnerable. What awareness did you gain? What bias did you recognize?)
5. One of the goals of the program is to explore and deepen student understanding and concepts of global citizenship. Please describe your understanding of global citizenship and how it informs your interactions.
6. Reflecting upon one's experience in light of faith will be an important part of this experience. Please share where you find yourself in your spiritual journey. (What longings do you have in regards to spirituality? What are your spiritual practices? How does your spirituality sustain one's work in the pursuit a just and humane world?)
7. A focus of our program experience is building community with others, with students from Seattle University and the international/domestic community you will live among. Please provide examples of teams, groups, or communities of which you've been a part. (What challenges did you face? What does authentic community look like? Who makes up your community?)
8. What specific gifts, skills, and abilities will you bring to the team of people with whom you will be preparing, fundraising, traveling, and reflecting in this immersion program?
9. The conditions under which we'll live in during our trip are simple and may be challenging (e.g. different foods, cultural norms, living in close quarters, etc.) What do you anticipate will be challenging for you and how might you respond? How might you help others feel more comfortable?
10. What hopes and anxieties do you have for your immersion experience?



Campus Ministry Immersion Program Application 2012-13

I am applying for (please check all that apply, **please indicate a first and second preference**):

Mexico (December 8-15, 2012)

Belize (March 22-30, 2013)

Appalachia (March 23-30, 2013)

Have you applied to the Campus Ministry Immersion Program before? Yes No

If yes, when & which Immersion? _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address (current) _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please circle one: Fr. Soph. Jr. Sr. Major(s) _____

Cumulative GPA to date _____ Religious Preference _____ Citizenship _____

Previous Immersion Experience:

Have you participated in an immersion experience at SU? Yes No

If yes, to which location(s)

Have you participated in other immersion experiences? (ie. church, high school, etc.) Yes No

If yes, please describe

Briefly list clubs, groups, sports, honors societies, work responsibilities, etc..you are currently involved in at Seattle University:

Who at Seattle University can serve as a reference for you?

Name _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Statement of Commitment: I have read through Seattle University's Campus Ministry Immersion Program description and requirements listed on the previous pages. I have discerned and recognize the commitment I am being asked to make for the following year. I am open to exploring new understandings of myself, others and God. I commit to being present to and supporting the participants in my immersion cohort. I commit to raising and/or paying the total amount for my participation in this program.

Signature _____