

**Interview Question
2012**

Name of Applicant: _____ Sex: M F

Year: F S J Sn Country: _____ Language Ability: _____

2nd choice country? _____

RATING: (1 being lowest / 10 being highest) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. Tell us a little bit about who you are – where you grew up, what your family is like, which high school you went to, what kinds of things you are involved in these days, what job you are working at, how you spend your time. . .

2. Tell us about yourself here at Canisius. Are you a commuter or resident? What are you involved in? Do you have a part-time job?

3. Do you know what you want to do with your life yet professionally?

4. Have you discovered your passion in life is yet? What is it? How did you discover it?

5. What is one word that describes you in general? _____

6. What experience in life has caused you to learn the most about yourself? Please describe this experience to us briefly and describe what you learned.

7. Why do you want to go on a trip like this? Why to this country in particular?

8. Have you ever traveled internationally before? Where?

9. If chosen, what is a strength you can bring to this team? What do you think are your weaknesses?

10. What, in your own words, is the mission of our trip?

11. Do you remember our four cornerstone values that this trip is founded on? If not, I will explain them to you. As I do, please think about which one will challenge you most and which one excites you most and share your thoughts with me after we have reviewed them all.

12. Simplicity is one of our cornerstone values. On each of our trips, we ask you to pack light. Our access to technology is severely limited. You can't watch TV, iPods are only for the plane ride and in your room at night, and phones and internet availability is severely limited. Even when technology is available to us, we need to share access to it with our entire team. The food is nourishing but simple. How does this make you feel? How will you be able to cope with this?

13. Spirituality is another cornerstone value in our trips. What role does your faith/spirituality play in your life? Are you willing to share this side of you with your team?

14. Have you discussed this trip with your parents or guardians? How are they reacting to you wanting to participate on this trip?

15. In the country you are visiting there maybe times where you are just sitting around waiting for instructions or you may have no idea where you are going until you get there and most things will not start on time. Since Americans are use to a schedule, how would you deal with these frustrating situations?

16. This trip involves a rigorous preparation process. Please explain to us what you understand the preparation requirement to be. *(Don't forget to return the covenant to the applicant at this time with the Weekend Workshop Dates!)*

17. In addition, you will be required to read a book about your country, read several articles, watch a movie and reflect on all this together with your team. You might be asked to attend speakers. You need to help you team fundraise and participate in fun team-bonding experiences with your team. Do you have the time in your life right now to commit to this kind of voluntary preparation process? *(Please note: we reserve the right to call into question your participation on our team if you are not attending our training events)*

18. What are you doing this coming summer? When you think about your summer plans (winter break plans), is there anything else you applied to that, if you got accepted, you would choose it and drop out of this Immersion Trip?

19a. For this trip to be successful, it is important that our entire team bond together. That being said, are you currently roommates with or dating anyone applying for this trip? Do you know anyone else who applied to this trip? Who?

19b. Do you feel like your relationship will get in the way of you being available to making friends with the entire team?

20. When you think about this trip, what makes you most afraid?

21. What do you hope to gain most from this trip?

22. Do you have any medical conditions or health issues?

23. Are you allergic to anything?

24. Do you have a specific diet you need to follow?

25. Do you have any history of mental health issues?

26. Is there anything else you want to tell us about yourself?

27. Do you have any questions for us?

INDIA

22. What do you know about the Dalit issue in India?

23. Are you open to trying new things for the sake of being polite, such as strange foods, a variety of religious ceremonies, spontaneous dancing, singing and performing, etc.

EL SALVADOR

1. What do you know about El Salvador's recent past?

2. El Salvador is different from all of our other trips, in that we deal not only with poverty but with the aftermath of a terrible civil war. The stories you hear and the realities you are going to have to confront are startling and upsetting. Do you feel as though you are ready to discuss and reflect upon the serious and challenging issues surrounding war?

3. In El Salvador, we might have a home-stay this year in a remote village. This will be an challenging night for you, but will give you a real glimpse into the everyday life of the very poor. Have you ever lived in someone else's home before? When you think of spending a night in the house of someone who is very poor, how do you feel?

4. Remind us again of your level of Spanish? Do you think you can hold basic conversations in Spanish?

5. A note about the physical stresses of El Salvador, including rain, heat and sickness. . .

JAMAICA

1. This year we will be spending a significant amount of time doing physical labor, culminating in building a house. Will you be able to handle such physical exertion, especially when combined with high heat?

2. A note about gender dynamics: Men in Jamaica are very free with their words towards women. They will hit on women freely and ask uncomfortable questions. Just fyi.

ECUADOR

1. What do you hope being in classrooms in a foreign context will teach you?

2. Are you able to be responsible and work independently from our larger group with a post-graduate volunteer while in Ecuador?

POLAND

1. In Poland, we work 24/7 with orphans. We sleep, eat, and live with them all day and all night. We are really looking for people who have a proven love for children. What is your experience working with children in the past?

2. When you are at the orphanage, you will be working from 8am till midnight each night with the orphans. Describe your energy level for an experience like this?

3. We live in tight quarters in Poland. Privacy is similar to that of living in a dorm, and instead of just one roommate, you have several roommates, some of which are children. How do you feel about this?

4. Do you understand that Poland is a three-week trip, NOT a two-week trip! That is a lot of extra days to be working. How do you feel about this?

5. Poland is 99% Catholic. At the orphanage, we pray together frequently throughout the day and go to mass often. We visit sacred religious sites in Poland. You will be expected to at least participate in all prayers, masses and tours. Are you comfortable in this kind of ultra-Catholic environment?

6. The people in your small families in the orphanage will speak a limited amount of English. We will try to give you some language preparation, but how do you feel about struggling to communicate with the people around you for 3 weeks?

7. In Poland, you need to make friends quick with the Polish university student volunteers and with the children. What qualities do you have that will aid you in making friends and being respectful?

8. Remind us again if you can speak any Polish?

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