PROPOSAL TO APC FOR INCREMENTAL FOREIGN CULTURE CREDIT: SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EXPERIENCE TO GUATEMALA

RATIONALE:

Residence Hall Director Charissa Jakusz and Assistant Professor Karen Mumford propose a short term study abroad program for incremental foreign culture credit. The implementation of this international immersion experience to Guatemala will provide students with the opportunity to study and engage in social and environmental justice and sustainability initiatives within the context of Latin America. Students will experience an intensive immersion experience in a developing country where they will work in solidarity with the Guatemalan people to exchange ideas about equality, sustainability, and development in a different culture. Through this interaction, students will observe issues of equity and justice associated with the distribution of resources, local and national governance, and power in Guatemala. This program will provide high-impact learning opportunities to enrich and deepen student cultural competency through global engagement.

This 2-week intensive immersion experience is funded through the Blugold Commitment grant of Faculty Led International Immersion Experiences (FLIIE) program. Fourteen students and 2 faculty advisors will be going to Guatemala this Winterim from December 31st through January 13th, 2015.

This proposal is seeking foreign culture credit (1/3 of requirement, or 3 credits) based on the CIE rubric of criteria. A general description of the experience break down is included on the next page for reference.

ENROLLMENT LIMITS:
FLIIE maximum enrollment per grant funded project is 14 students. At the time of this proposal, the trip was expanded from 12 participants to 14 based on student interest in this experience abroad.

CURRICULUM:
This short term study abroad experience is not tied to a credit bearing course at UW-Eau Claire or abroad in Guatemala.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
The program is open to all academically eligible undergraduate students at UW-Eau Claire. Participants must be in good academic standing and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3. Applicants may apply as freshmen.
## EXPERIENCE BREAKDOWN BY LOCATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOST SITE:</th>
<th>De La Gente “Of the People”</th>
<th>Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos (NPH) Orphanage</th>
<th>San Lucas Toliman</th>
<th>Camino Seguro: “Project Safe Passage”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>5 Nights</td>
<td>4 Nights</td>
<td>4 Nights</td>
<td>1 Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Home Stay with local farmer families.</td>
<td>Orphanage Dormitory</td>
<td>Hotel provided by the mission with other groups volunteering from around the world.</td>
<td>No overnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Projects/Experiences</td>
<td>Working with the farmers on local coffee plantations, learning to cook Pepian (traditional dish), Civil War hike, Artisan workshop all with local people/farmers</td>
<td>Teaching in the classrooms, Sustainability projects, working with the children, cooking, gardening, etc.</td>
<td>Volunteering and working in solidarity with the local Guatemalan people in the Women’s Center, Clinic, Coffee Plantation, organic garden, etc.</td>
<td>Touring the dump in city center and the projects through this organization that provide alternatives to life/work in the city dump.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Make with the farmers families.</td>
<td>Provided, make with the staff.</td>
<td>Provided, make with the volunteers.</td>
<td>Provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOREIGN CULTURE PROPOSAL:
Under the current foreign culture requirement as documented in the 2014-2015 UWEC Undergraduate Catalogue on page 40, a short term study abroad trip can earn incremental foreign culture credit.

(b) earning credit (and maintaining good academic standing) in either a full semester of study abroad or approved internship abroad, or incrementally through a combination of short term study abroad and courses designated as fulfilling the foreign culture requirement. The incremental value of a short term study abroad program is available in the Center for International Education, Schofield 3.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL:
Short-term study abroad programs can meet one-third or two-thirds of the Foreign Language/Foreign Culture requirement, depending on the length of the program and the three cultural immersion criteria listed below.

A) PROGRAM LENGTH:
1) Programs 1-3 weeks in length can meet 1/3 of the FL/FC requirement if they score 5 points or more on the cultural immersion criteria. A total of 15 points is possible, 5 in each of three categories:

The Social and Environmental Justice Experience to Guatemala lasts two weeks in length over the 2015 Winterim. A breakdown of the proposal for the receipt of points according to the following rubric follows.

B) CULTURAL IMMERSION CRITERIA:
1) Foreign Language: programs earn:

1 point if they are in a non-English speaking country, and
1 point if they have some language instruction, but not for credit
1 point for each academic credit of foreign language instruction in the program, for up to 3 additional points
Total points possible: 5

Under the Foreign Language Criteria, the Social and Environmental Justice Experience matches the first two bolded criteria. The experience will take place in Guatemala where the spoken language is Spanish. Participants will be interacting with native speakers many of whom speak little to no English. In educational settings, interpreters will be provided for students to internalize the information that they are learning throughout the course of this immersion.

The second point for language instruction but not for credit will be in two forms. Basic language instruction will take place in one of the pre-trip meetings by trip coordinator Charissa Jakusz who has her BSE in Spanish from UW-Whitewater and has taught high school level Spanish levels 1 through level 5. This basic Spanish instruction will provide participants of key phrases, greetings, and communication to interact with the local people in the homestays, market places, and service sites. The second form will be
through local interactions of learning Spanish terms, words and phrases especially in the
homestays and classroom environments at the orphanage where UW-Eau Claire students
will be helping to teach English, Spanish, or another subject area based on their
individual language proficiency.

This results in 2 qualifying points according to the criteria of Foreign Language above.

2) Contact with local culture: programs earn:

- **1 point** if they have a homestay for part of the program OR
- 2 points if they have a homestay for the full program
- **1 point** if students do internships or service projects in the community
- **1 point** if excursions give student directed interaction with local people
- 1 point if classmates are from countries other than the U.S.

Total points possible: 5

Under the Contact with Local Culture Criteria, the Social and Environmental Justice
Experience, matches the first three bolded criteria. The first point for homestay will be
met by the stay at “De la Gente” (Of the people) and during the stay within the
orphanage home. The second point is met by the service that will happen during all four
sites but specifically at the orphanage (NPH) and the mission (San Lucas Toliman). The
third point in this category is awarded for the interaction with the local people as they
serve as experts in sharing their culture, experiences, homes and livelihood with the UW-
Eau Claire students.

This results in 3 qualifying points according to the criteria of Contact with Local Culture
above.

3) Instruction by faculty from host country: programs earn

- **1 point** if local faculty give lectures in course taught by our faculty
- 3 points if half of courses are taught for academic credit by local faculty
- 5 points if local faculty teach all courses

Total points possible: 5

While this short term study abroad experience is not tied to a course, the faculty will be
holding three pre-trip meetings as well as post-trip meetings. Jody Slocum, local
Guatemala expert on fair trade and environmental impact, will be coming to one of our
pre-trip meetings. Instruction in country from local experts will be shared (ie. Farmers
to Farmers organization will send us into the local farmers’ (as they are the experts)
homes to walk through the coffee process from start to finish as well as impact on fair
trade and the environment. Teresa Ritzinger, a local representative for NPH, the
orphanage, will be coming to talk to the group in a post-trip meeting.

These in combination result in 1 point according to the criteria for instruction by faculty
from host country.