

Application for Campus Ministry's International Service-Immersion Program

Completed applications are due in to the Campus Ministry Office, OM 207 on or before
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 2014

A Completed Application Will Include the Following:

- This completed paper application, including your signature on our covenant
- 4 photocopies of your passport picture page stapled to the left-hand corner of this application. *If you do not have your passport, please attach a head shot of yourself.*
- 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 on the schedule posted on the door.

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: _____ Gender: F M T-shirt Size: _____ Honors Student? Y N

Program applying to:

_____ 12 member Team El Salvador (tentative dates: May 18–May 28, 2015)

_____ 14 member Team Jamaica (tentative dates: May 18–May 30, 2015)

_____ 12 member Team Nicaragua (tentative dates: July 12–July 18, 2015)

_____ 14 member Team Poland (tentative dates: July 12–August 3, 2015)

***You can have a first and a second choice trip.** 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.

***To be accepted for our Poland experience,** you need to have done a previous service trip before, such as Winter Service Week (WSW), Alternative Spring Break (ASB), another international service-immersion trip or an equivalent experience. If you don't have this experience, you may fulfill it this year by participating in our Winter Service Week (WSW) experience – applications are currently out for that as well!

Our International Service-Immersion Experiences

Canisius College offers our Service-Immersion Experiences because we are a Catholic, Jesuit institution. We intentionally place participants in direct contact with the poor and marginalized for extended exposure experiences in the hopes that participants will learn the value of building relationships across socio-economic lines, increase their awareness of the injustices in the world and connect to the ways that they are being called to build up our human family—with a special concern for those most disadvantaged. Our program revolves around the four cornerstone values of simplicity, spirituality, social justice and solidarity. We take our motivation from the following voices:

Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in his talk to the members of a Jesuit University in the United States in 2000, implored that:

“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.”

Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., the current Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in an address to Jesuit Higher Education Institutions in Mexico City in 2010 with:

“the depth of thought and imagination in the Ignatian tradition involves a profound engagement with the real . . . the world as we encounter it; the world of the senses so vividly described in the Gospels themselves; a world of suffering and need, a broken world with many broken people in need of healing. We start there. We don’t run away from there. And then Ignatius guides us and students of Jesuit education, as he did his retreatants, to enter into the depths of that reality. Beyond what can be perceived most immediately, he leads one to see the hidden presence and action of God in what is seen, touched, smelt, felt. And that encounter with what is deepest changes the person.”

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 all of them is the same. The program seeks to expose participants to people who are impoverished and marginalized in order to challenge our preconceived notions about the world and transform us into women and men who are committed to justice and to serving others.

Credit is available for these experiences!

Every Fall, a 3-credit class is offered called “Beyond Service-Immersion” (IMR:200) and is available to anyone who has participated in a Campus Ministry International Service-Immersion Experience (or the equivalent). The course helps you deepen and explore the insights gained on your service-immersion experience and allows you to integrate them more fully once you return. Consider maximizing this experience by registering for this course upon you return.

The Countries We Visit

This year we will offer the following experiences and encourage you to *please explore all of your options* - it is important that you know what you are signing up for. We will discuss your reasons for applying to a particular trip and your understanding of our program in your interview.

Youth in Jamaica

Become part of a two-week service experience into Jamaica, where our team will do a variety of projects focused on working with children of all ages in partnership with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegheny. We will begin in the capital city of Kingston, focusing on teaching at St. Anne's Jesuit Parish Primary School but also interfacing with babies and toddlers in an orphanage and interacting with children in squatter communities surrounding Kingston. For the second half of the trip we will transition to a rural experience in Braes Rivers, where we will spend some time in country schools, homework centers and doing basic physical work on a food security farm. This is a great introductory trip for people who enjoy interacting with children and doing a variety of ministries - and Jamaicans speak English!

Tentative Dates: Monday, May 18th – Saturday, May 30th

Cost: \$1,600

War, Peace and the Pursuit of Justice in El Salvador

Become part of a two-week immersion experience 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. Our trip will feature time in both the Capital city of San Salvador, the rustic town of Suchitoto and will include witnessing the everyday reality of the poor via an overnight home stay in a very rural community. Canisius students can expect this to be a less "hands-on" trip and instead 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 18th – Friday, May 28th

Cost: \$1,600

Summer Camp for At-Risk Children in Poland

Become part of a three-week intensive summer camp for foster children and orphans (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 "aunts" 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 one of our most service-orientated experiences.

Tentative Dates: Sunday, July 23th – Monday, August 3rd

Approximate cost: \$2,300

Land Acquisition and Sustainability in Nicaragua

Join this unique one-week experience into Nicaragua and bring your mom or dad along! This is our only “student-parent model” trip and allows families to have a powerful, shared immersion experience together. We will be working with Agros International, a faith-based organization that helps rural poor in Latin America escape the cycle of generational poverty through an integrated, long-term approach of land acquisition and sustainable village building. Agros purchases land that can support farming families who in turn work together to “build a village” by establishing basic housing, sanitary latrines, clean water and a democratically-elected governing structure. Our team will visit four different Agros villages and participants will have the opportunity to build direct relationships with village members through meetings, home visits, farming, crafts, and communal celebrations. This trip is an exciting opportunity that will help families understand the value of solidarity via a thriving model of sustainable development. To learn more about Agros, visit <http://www.agros.org/index.cfm>

**Prior to your interview, please discuss this trip with your parents and make sure at least one of them is willing to participate with you.

Tentative Dates: Sunday, July 12th – Saturday, July 18th

Cost: \$1,550/per person

**To learn more about our trips and watch
our slideshow presentation, visit:**

http://www.canisius.edu/camp_minist/service_trips.asp

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

Financial Responsibility

We understand that the cost of these experiences is daunting. Below is what is included and not included in your participant fee, so you can plan accordingly:

Participant fee includes:

- Airfare, international travel insurance, room, board and transportation expenses in country

Participant fee does not include:

- Passport fees, immunizations, visa (if necessary), required books for preparation, and any personal items and expenses (souvenirs, snacks)

Although Campus Ministry will attempt to help you fundraise in the months leading up to your immersion 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 leaving for Winter Break.** Failing to pay this symbolically says that you are not committed to this trip and threatens your ability to continue.
- **The cost of your plane ticket is due Friday, Feb. 20th**
- **The total cost of your trip is due Friday, April 17th**
- If you are struggling to raise money, it is your responsibility to be proactive and approach Campus Ministry to learn about your options. **To qualify for any limited scholarship help, you need to have participated in the 2 main fundraisers out of Campus Ministry (Letter-Writing Campaign and R.A.I.S.E. Benefit) and have attempted 3 fundraisers on your own.)**
- All money turned in to Campus Ministry is **non-refundable**.
- In the event that a trip is cancelled for unforeseen reasons (almost always for a safety concern), Campus Ministry will do everything possible to refund you the full cost. However, some expenses might be lost and are beyond Campus Ministry's control.

Scholarship Opportunities

There are a few scholarship opportunities for participants of our international service-immersion experiences:

- **The Undergraduate Student Association (USA)** is offering a limited number of partial scholarships for students who could not otherwise afford these experiences. Once accepted into the program, scholarship applications can be made directly to USA.
- **The All-Canisius Honor's Program** is offering a limited number of partial scholarships to Honors students accepted into the program. Information will be disseminated directly from Dr. Bruce Dierenfield.

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 some of our many local service opportunities or our Winter Service Week trips to strengthen your background in service in order to apply for an international trip the following year.*

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

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?

What else can you tell us about your commitment to service?

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*):

Have you ever had a violation of Community Standards at Canisius? If so, for what?

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 practice a religion to participate, but you do have to be willing to engage your spirituality or ethical framework 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 comfortable sharing about your spiritual life, you might try joining a Christian Life Community (CLC is a student-run club comprised of small, faith sharing groups of students who meet together weekly) or sign up for one of Campus Ministry's retreats in order to strengthen your application. Information for our retreat program can be found on our website.*

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 or group at Canisius or elsewhere 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?

Please provide us with the name and phone number of a person who would be able to talk about your commitment to service and/or spirituality.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Quick Health Snapshot

Please provide us with the following Health Snapshot. A more involved medical release form that must be signed off on by your doctor will be required if you get accepted into this program. *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 other health conditions or concerns should we know about that will impact you on an international trip?

Quick Financial Snapshot

1. How confident are you about raising the money for this trip?
2. What fundraising ideas do you have?
3. How many times have you ever received a scholarship from Campus Ministry before for a retreat or trip? If so, what was it for and how much did you receive?

Essay

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:

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

The Preparation Process

If you are selected onto an international service-immersion team, you are required to attend monthly Weekend Workshops and various team meetings organized by the student leaders of your trip. You will be expected to read books and articles, watch movies and attend speakers throughout the year related to social justice issues or your destination in particular. Not fulfilling these preparation requirements jeopardizes your ability to travel with your team. Below is a schedule of Weekend Workshops—please check these dates against your calendar and be prepared to discuss them in your interview:

- **Sunday, November 9th from 3:00-6:00 in the Regis Room of the Student Center** – Kick Off the Mission Workshop (*for domestic and international service-immersion program*)
- **Saturday, November 22nd from 9:30am-1:00pm** – Day of Service (*for domestic and international service-immersion program*)
- **Sunday, November 16th from 4-6** – Team Dinner. Location tba.
- **Friday, January 23rd at 4:00pm – Saturday, January 24th at 5:00pm at Whispering Pines** – Retreat Workshop for international trips and ASB
- **Sunday, February 22nd from 1:00-4:00 in the Regis Room** – Global Justice Workshop
- **Tuesday, March 10 – Thursday, March 12th** - RAISE Benefit culminating in a dinner on Thursday, March 12th in Montante
- **Sunday, March 29th from 10:00am-6:00pm at Lu's House** – Explore your Country Workshop (each team will have a 1 ½ hour meeting with Lu to discuss your 3rd book)
- **Saturday, April 11th from 9:30am-3:00pm in the Undercroft** – Plunge Into Buffalo (*to begin right after registration*)
- **Sunday, April 26th from 8:00pm-10:30pm in the Undercroft** – Last Minute Details
- **Sunday, September 6th 2015 – reunion at Lu's House** – Trip Reunions will happen throughout the day (10am-6pm) and each team will have 1 ½ hours to eat and talk about their experiences together)

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 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! You 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 your 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, you as a representative of Canisius College need to be responsible for your conduct. You need to be culturally sensitive, careful about your safety, willing to settle for less than the comforts you experience at home, flexible about your needs, willing to live by standards of behavior that perhaps are higher than in your home culture, and at all times remain focused on your 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:

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, work with and learn from those on the margins of society
 - I will seek to know the truth of situations, rather than relying on my prejudices and biases
 - I will challenge myself to go deeper and explore the root causes of injustices I witness, even if these causes implicate me and my lifestyle
 - I will strive to become just in my own thoughts, language and actions

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 strive to cultivate a positive outlook, realizing that conditions may be less comfortable than those I am used to at home

- I will deliberately forgo the use of technology to the extent that is possible in order to focus on the present moment and the people around me
 - I will find value in developing meaningful relationships with the people I encounter
 - I will strive to remain open to differences of opinions and behaviors as they present themselves in my 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
- 3. Solidarity:** The basis of solidarity lies in the realization that our humanity depends on everyone else's humanity. During these experiences, we must remember that when we serve someone, we are also being served by that person. This creates a relationship of mutuality, where we both learn and grow, although perhaps in different ways. When we are in solidarity, we are pursuing what is best not just for ourselves but for the common good, especially the poor and marginalized. This wider vision is 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 team members and willing to be open and 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 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 seek to accompany the people I meet as a companion on their road to justice and liberation, striving for mutuality and realizing the ways that they are serving me and helping me to grow.
 - I will commit once home to working on behalf of the marginalized in this world.
- 4. Spirituality:** This international experience is an opportunity for 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 and economic opportunity, countries who have seen wars, know great divides between the wealthy and the poor, and have been the pawns of global politics. 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.
 - I will attempt to find God in all things, especially the gritty complexity of the world.
 - I will commit to growing in spirituality together with my team.
 - I will use our reflection sessions each night as a time to ask what my faith or my values 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 and respectfully attend any religious services my team is asked to go to.

Personal Conduct:

Having a safe and respectful experience is among our top priorities. 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 check in with my team leaders about how to proceed safely if there is an opportunity to explore and I will always have a group of Canisius students with me.
- **I will not 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) jeopardize the integrity and future of Campus Ministry trips, 2) potentially cause division among my teammates, 3) potentially have lasting legal ramifications that I am not aware of, 4) 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 anyone I meet abroad. I understand that if I violate this policy I will be sent home at my own expense.

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

Name:

Date: