

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Nicaragua-Costa Rica: Global Health, Culture, & Service Learning EPIC Advantage Experience 2018

May 08-May 29

Leaders: Lori Watson and Jose-Ignacio Pareja

Application Deadline: Nov. 06, 2017



EPIC Advantage Project Description:

Students in this program will engage in several different types of service-oriented global health initiatives in an immersive and culturally enriching experience based in Limon- Nicaragua and San Jose/Alajuelita - Costa Rica. For part of the experience, students will provide non-medical support for clinics, health centers and educational programs. They will have the opportunity to shadow medical personnel in the field and observe medical in-the-field practices. Our students will also have the opportunity to participate in health education activities relevant to the local community and get involved in public health related volunteering projects. Finally, students will explore historical/cultural sites and participate in excursions/experiences in both countries.

Location:

Nicaragua – Limon:

Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central America and the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, creating a population susceptible to a number of health problems. The village of Limón is located 20 miles southeast of the city of Rivas in the Pacific lowlands region of Nicaragua. The region is popular for coastal tourism, namely surfing, and is known for its colonial heritage, beach communities, mountains, and volcanoes. Directly outside the upscale resorts, however, are numerous impoverished communities which depend on medical care provided by overburdened government clinics. Malnutrition, communicable diseases and inadequate basic sanitation are all present, but the health profile also includes high rates of chronic and degenerative diseases and traffic accidents. -FIMRC 2017

Costa Rica – Alajuelita/San Jose:

Costa Rica, meaning "rich coast", is a Central American country that shares borders with Nicaragua and Panama. It is a country known for having successfully adjusted its development strategy in the 1980s, therefore reducing poverty levels and improving social services. The government now faces the problem of continuing a strong social security system and access to subsidized health services in light of fiscal constraints and competing priorities. Five kilometers outside of San Jose, the capital city of Costa Rica, approximately 12,500 Nicaraguan refugees and impoverished Costa Rican citizens settled outside of central Alajuelita ("Little Alajuela"). The majority of this population, comprised largely of women and their children, is medically uninsured. -FIMRC 2017.

Our partner:

The Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children - FIMRC (<http://www.fimrc.org/>). FIMRC is dedicated to improve health care in communities across the globe. Earlham partners with FIMRC to join in their mission and to contribute to the efforts to help drive changes and improve the health of children and communities.

Expectations for Students:

This immersive experience has four major learning goals: (1) Experience global health in context through active participation and place-based volunteering; (2) Gain interpersonal competencies including, but not limited to service orientation, social skills, cultural competence, teamwork, oral communication (bilingual); (3) Gain intrapersonal competencies including, but not limited to

ethical responsibility to self and others, reliability and dependability, resilience and adaptability and capacity for improvement and (4) Gain direct exposure to public health issues that are relevant and transferable to other parts of the world.

Pre-requisites: No formal coursework, although applicants with a demonstrated interest in global health, public health or related fields are preferred. Exposure to the Spanish language would be beneficial but it is not required.

Orientation: Students will be required to take a one-credit* EPIC advantage orientation during the Spring 2018 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the program experience. Class meeting date/time will be determined in the future.

**This credit does not count towards your 18 maximum*

Post experience: All participants will be expected to do a formal presentation of learning in the Fall semester (2018) and will also have the option of signing up for (0-2) credits for our OFF399: Intercultural Global Health Reflection Seminar.

Faculty: Lori Watson is Associate Professor of Chemistry and Associate Academic Dean. Her interests include: organometallic and computational chemistry as well as active learning pedagogies in chemical education. She teaches courses in inorganic and physical chemistry, among others.

Jose-Ignacio Pareja is the Director of the Souder Science & Technology Commons. His interests include: Science, Science Education, Biotechnology, Environmental & Health Sciences and the Outdoors. He likes to engage students in thinking about applied sciences across disciplines, and enjoys engaging students in hands-on, experiential learning trying to solve real world problems.

Collectively, Lori and Jose-Ignacio have been part of and/or led off-campus programs to national and international locations such as: Oak Ridge, China, New Zealand, Peru, Kenya, Borneo, Mexico, Mongolia, and Belize.

Dates of Experience: May 08-May 29

Information Sessions:

Oct 09, 12:00pm CST 103 and Oct 18, 12:00pm CST 103 ((Lunch will be provided)

Application: Applications can be received from students starting on **October 15, 2017**.

Application window closes on **Nov. 06, 2017**

Link to Application: Apply in Handshake



Student Eligibility: Rising sophomores, rising juniors, or rising seniors may apply.

Cost to Student: This is an EPIC Advantage experience and the student experience is funded. This includes passport, visa, travel, room and board, and any other expenses required by the program. Personal expenses will be covered by the student.

Travel To and From Site: The group will travel together to Nicaragua and fly back from Costa Rica.

PROGRAM PLANS SUBJECT TO CHANGE