

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience

EPIC ADVANTAGE: Peru: Global Health, Culture, and Service Learning

Dates: May 17 – June 5 , 2019

Leader: Corinne Deibel, Morgan Bailey, Program Assistant

Credits: 3 credits (credit/no credit)

Application Deadline: October 15, 2018



Description of Experience and Research:

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 Huancayo and La Merced, Peru. 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 experience systems of medicine vastly different from those in the US. 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 Huancayo, La Merced, and Cusco.

Location:

Peru is located in the central-western of South America and is divided into three large regions: the coast, the mountains, and the jungle. It is a multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic country, the home to many ancient cultures. Peru has made huge strides towards improved healthcare over the past two decades, but problems still persist with inequalities in rural areas, a lack of trained healthcare providers and sufficient funding to meet the needs of the population.

Huancayo: Located in Peru's central highlands, Huancayo is a culturally vibrant city surrounded by small artisan towns. Its hiking trails and nightlife make it a popular destination for visitors. It is rich in Andean culture and has a more heavily native population than the more pan-Latino coast. Despite the rich culture and tourism opportunities, a large portion of the population still lives in poverty. The most common health issues in Huancayo are a direct result of the lack of access to clean water, sanitary living conditions and proper nutrition. -FIMRC 2018. PERU, FIMRC

La Merced, Chanchamayo: La Merced is a culturally diverse city surrounded by mountains. The city is known as the gateway to the indigenous populations of the Ashaninka, Yanasha, and Amuesha communities, which are rich in native culture. La Merced is a mix of Peruvian culture with historical roots common to jungle areas. Many of the most common health issues in the area are related to the Amazonian location of La Merced and traditional beliefs that are still held today in many of the outlying communities. – FIMRC 2018. PERU, FIMRC

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 by creating sustainable programs that are based on the needs of the communities as expressed by the communities themselves. Earlham has partnered 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.

The urban environment in Huancayo requires FIMRC volunteers to be much more in-tune with the families that they serve. The indigenous population in La Merced requires a level of respect and understanding of native practices. FIMRC personnel participates in the activities of their partner organizations, develop and implement health prevention programs based on urgent community needs as well as work with families and healthcare providers in both locations.

**Faculty:**

Corinne Deibel is a Professor of Chemistry, she teaches courses ranging from general and analytical chemistry to forensic chemistry. Her research involves the use of portable instrumentation for archaeological analyses, and she currently focuses on Neolithic jade and pottery objects in China. Corinne has lead several Earlham off-campus programs in her native France, Oak Ridge, and New Zealand and has conducted research with Earlham students in China and Chile.

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.

During this program we will use a variety of accommodations, from hostels in Lima–Miraflores and Cusco, to homestays in La Merced and Huancayo. Be prepared to live in modest accommodations and in close company with others.

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.

Post experience: All participants will be expected to do a formal presentation of learning in the Fall semester (2019)

Dates of Experience:

May 17 – June 5, 2019

Travel To and From Site:

The group will arrive together in Lima, Peru on Friday, May 17, 2019. Students may leave from Lima on Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

Application Dates:

Applications can be received from students starting on Sept. 15, 2018. Application window closes on Oct. 15, 2018.

Link to Application:

Apply in Handshake

Preparation:

Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Student Eligibility:

Rising Sophomores, juniors, or seniors are eligible to apply.

Cost to Student:

This experience is funded as an EPIC ADVANTAGE opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board, and other expenses required by the program. Passports and immunizations as well as other personal expenses will be covered by students. Students who are accepted and withdraw after January 15, 2019 must reimburse the college for all expenses committed on their behalf.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: <https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/>