

Name: Date: October 31st, 2018

Student ID:

Major: Environmental Science Advisor: Jason Hamilton

Email: _ Expected Graduation date: May 2019

1. Where and when do you plan to fulfill your cultural immersion? Be specific Belize
2. How long do you plan to spend there? January 4th, 2019- January 17th, 2019

1. How is your proposed experience related to environmental studies or science?

The environmental science and studies do not only explore the environment. A key part of our study is an exploration of people and place. During this trip we will be spending time with the people of the area through a homestay. We will get to learn their culture, eat their food, and participate in parts of what daily life looks like in Belize. We also will get a glimpse at the history of the people here. Part of the trip will explore a 2000 year old Mayan ruin. Finally, we will be developing a relationship with the natural environment through many explorations of the wild plant and animal life in the region; one such example being the overnight in Cockcomb Wildlife Sanctuary.

As we move deeper into the age of the Anthropocene an effort to mitigate the climate crisis and adapt to the changing planet will require a wider lens than just the study of environmental sustainability. We must learn to be inclusive with our sustainability in a way that incorporates a respect and inclusivity towards peoples and cultures around the globe.

Through our engagement with the people, history, and natural environment I will grow as an Environmental Scientist. The experiences I have in Belize will further develop my culture awareness as I move towards being a professional in the world of sustainability.

2. How will your proposed experience involve 40 hours of direct involvement with a group of people from a culture other than what you have experienced to date?

The proposed experience will involve a home stay portion. During this portion I will be living with a Belize family and experience a glimpse of what life is like for the folks of Belize.

3. How is your proposed experience a deeper, more critical cultural immersion experience than travel or observation alone?

The proposed experience not only brings me to Belize but gives me a glimpse at what their lives are like through the homestay portion. Traveling there without the homestay I could potentially here about the history, I could learn about the wildlife, I could experience their food and their culture to some extent, but I could not be immersed in it. The homestay is what really give me the opportunity to be immersed in Belizean culture.

Approval: Accepted _____ Rejected _____ Conditional pending _____

From: [WPM Forms](#)
To: [Cheryl Gunther](#)
Subject: New Submission: Cultural Immersion Experience
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 8:47:11 AM

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
IP	147.129.151.62
Date Time	2018-10-09 08:47:08
Last Name	
First Name	
Major	Environmental Studies
Grad Year	May 2020
IC email address	
Student ID	
Advisor	Anne Stork
Where and when do you plan to fulfill your cultural immersion? Be specific:	I will be participating in a program in Jaipur, India in Spring of 2019.
How long do you plan to spend there?	I will be there from Feb 3 - May 18
Are you working with a particular organization for your cultural immersion experience?	yes
If you answered yes to the question above, what organization? If no, leave blank.	Program in Jaipur, India
How is your proposed experience related to environmental studies or science?	The Program I am attending is focused on sustainable development and social change in India. During the semester I will be studying development concepts and challenges and applying them. Indian issues of environmental sustainability and social equity.
How will your proposed experience involve 40 hours of direct involvement with a group of people from a culture	During my time in India I will be living with local families in Jaipur. For six weeks I will live in a home stay with a middle class family and be engaged with them in their day-to-day life around the city. I will also be learning Hindi in order to

other than what you have experienced to date? communicate better with the community I will be living in.

How is your proposed experience a deeper, more critical cultural immersion experience than travel or observation alone?

Aside from the home stays, which provide a much deeper immersion into local culture than traditional travel, I will also be visiting a wide range of groups around the country from NGO's to universities and even small rural communities. The range of perspectives will learn from such diverse groups will help me to form a deeper understanding of development issues, but also a deeper experience with Indian culture.

From: [WPM Forms](#)
To: [Cheryl Gunther](#)
Subject: New Submission: Cultural Immersion Experience
Date: Saturday, November 24, 2018 12:33:46 AM

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
IP	12.129.159.195
Date Time	2018-11-24 00:33:41
Last Name	
First Name	
Major	Environmental Science
Grad Year	2019
IC email address	
Student ID	
Advisor	Jason Hamilton
Where and when do you plan to fulfill your cultural immersion? Be specific:	I plan to fulfill my immersion experience in a community in West Virginia over spring break of 2019. I will be there for about a week.
How long do you plan to spend there?	I plan to spend about a week there.
Are you working with a particular organization for your cultural immersion experience?	yes
If you answered yes to the question above, what organization? If no, leave blank.	Professor Mudlar's Community and Conservation class.
How is your proposed experience related to environmental studies or science?	My cultural immersion experience will focus on sustainable conservation and community development issues. According to Professor Mudlar, it will include visits to areas of mountain top removal mining, surface mining, power plants, wind farms, and shale wells. These visits are necessary to acquire local knowledge which could potentially be used in sustainable development projects.
	This work will involve 40 hours of direct involvement with a culture that I have not been exposed to because I have never been to West Virginia (or anywhere like it) before. From what

How will your proposed experience involve 40 hours of direct involvement with a group of people from a culture other than what you have experienced to date?

I have gathered from Professor Mudlar, it seems that some West Virginian communities have been subjected to a number of environmental injustices, and there are strong incentives and social ties to operating their communities in unsustainable ways. For instance, coal-mining has been tied to masculinity for generations, and has always been a respectable and expected career goal for young men in the area. Although another form of energy would likely be cleaner, taking the coal industry away from these people would have a number of effects on society, the economy, etc. My experience in West Virginia will likely involve direct communication via interview and collaboration on sustainability projects. This is necessary in order to begin to dismantle the complex barriers to development, and to be a partner for change rather than a dogmatist.

How is your proposed experience a deeper, more critical cultural immersion experience than travel or observation alone?

This trip will help me to merge the knowledge that I will acquire in Professor Mudlar's class with real-world issues. Having this background on managing natural resources for conservation and use, and the conflicts that arise between local This experience will be more valuable to traveling or observing populations, conservationists, and national/international policy makers will help me to contextualize local issues in West Virginia. This experience will be more valuable than just visiting or observing West Virginia because it will exemplify the need to integrate the diverse voices in pursuing environmentally and socially just sustainable development. Although I have learned about "underdeveloped" areas in class, going there and discussing issues, perspectives, and priorities with locals will teach me about the social, political, and financial roadblocks in the way of development, and how to be a productive and respectful presence.

From: [WPM Forms](#)
To: [Cheryl Gunther](#)
Subject: New Submission: Cultural Immersion Experience
Date: Monday, October 29, 2018 6:01:53 PM

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
IP	69.201.41.252
Date Time	2018-10-29 18:01:49
Last Name	
First Name	
Major	Environmental Studies
Grad Year	2020
IC email address	
Student ID	
Advisor	Jason Hamilton
Where and when do you plan to fulfill your cultural immersion? Be specific:	I will be fulfilling my cultural immersion requirement in Christchurch, New Zealand during the spring semester of 2019
How long do you plan to spend there?	A full semester, so approximately 4 months.
Are you working with a particular organization for your cultural immersion experience?	yes
If you answered yes to the question above, what organization? If no, leave blank.	I will be studying at the University of Canterbury
How is your proposed experience related to environmental studies or science?	I intend to take a course on Maori performance, taught by a Maori woman, to learn about the history and culture of the Maori people. This will help teach me cultural awareness, which is critical to environmental communication, as the cultures of other people are affected by Climate Change. In order to effectively communicate with other cultures, we must all be aware of our differences so that we don't offend them.
How will your proposed experience involve 40	I will be in a completely different country, on the other side of the world than the US. I'll be taking classes with people whose culture is different from mine, and will be around them at all

hours of direct involvement with a group of people from a culture other than what you have experienced to date?

times. I don't know any other Americans going to study at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, so my culture won't be represented in the way that I am used to, and others will have preconceptions of me and my culture before I even meet them.

How is your proposed experience a deeper, more critical cultural immersion experience than travel or observation alone?

I won't be simply traveling in New Zealand; I'll be learning from professors who grew up there, have New Zealand accents, and who won't understand my culture in the same way that I won't understand theirs, at first. My peers will have different slang, accents, and ways of being than I do, and I'll be interacting with people from New Zealand every single minute of every day. I intend to stay with a family there, so I will witness and become part of a typical family dynamic that I wouldn't get if I were simply renting an apartment in Christchurch. I will be fully immersed in a completely different culture in a country that I will probably never have the chance to go to ever again. If I were simply traveling or observing, I would never get the same understanding of New Zealand's culture as I will studying and living there.

From: [WPM Forms](#)
To: [Cheryl Gunther](#)
Subject: New Submission: Cultural Immersion Experience
Date: Monday, October 29, 2018 9:09:33 PM

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
IP	74.79.12.195
Date Time	2018-10-29 21:09:28
Last Name	
First Name	
Major	Environmental Studies
Grad Year	2019
IC email address	
Student ID	
Advisor	Jake Brenner
Where and when do you plan to fulfill your cultural immersion? Be specific:	The North End of Detroit, Spring break, 2019
How long do you plan to spend there?	7 days
Are you working with a particular organization for your cultural immersion experience?	yes
If you answered yes to the question above, what organization? If no, leave blank.	The Michigan Urban Farming Initiative
How is your proposed experience related to environmental studies or science?	This would be volunteer work on urban, sustainable agricultural plots, in a place with a need to fill vacant land with positive community projects and provide food security to city residents. The types of projects vary widely, from direct agricultural planting and harvesting to food distribution, youth education programs, community planning workshops, and infrastructure projects such as renovating basements on abandoned and deconstructed lots in cisterns.
How will your proposed experience involve 40	

hours of direct involvement with a group of people from a culture other than what you have experienced to date?

Between Northern West Virginia and Ithaca I have spent no time in densely populated urban cultures or in populations of POC. Upwards of at least 85% of the population in the North End are African Americans, and there are also Arab Muslims.

How is your proposed experience a deeper, more critical cultural immersion experience than travel or observation alone?

This experience would be hands on work side by side with people of far different cultural origins, different race-ethnicities, and different age groups.

Name: _____ Date: 3/8/2017 Student ID: _____

Major: Environmental Studies Advisor: Christopher Sinton

Email: _____ Expected Graduation date: May 2017

1. Where and when do you plan to fulfill your cultural immersion? Be specific At the Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies located on 210 Tibet Drive in Carmel, after spring break.
2. How long do you plan to spend there? 40 hours

1. How is your proposed experience related to environmental studies or science?
2. How will your proposed experience involve 40 hours of direct involvement with a group of people from a culture other than what you have experienced to date?
3. How is your proposed experience a deeper, more critical cultural immersion experience than travel or observation alone?

1. Understanding and experiencing local Buddhist culture will give me the opportunity to look at environmental studies and sciences through another perspective of people that live right around the corner from me. From what I have read, Buddhist monks have a deep connection with the environment because they believe one can be happy with fewer possessions. They also believe that we are all connected. When one looks at the world and everything in it as an extension of themselves they have a different mind set than those who may not look at the world similarly.

2. What's interesting to me about the Namgyal Buddhist culture is that I have never experienced a culture similar to Buddhism. The Namgyal monks practice meditation as well as a variety of other techniques to control their breathing, their bodies, and their thoughts in hope of achieving deeper realization and connection to earth. My daily routine does not practice as much discipline and connection to many things that do not concern me. Taking a step back by meditating and learning Buddhist ideology, perhaps I will learn a more peaceful or slow-paced lifestyle that I can utilize when I am caught up in my usual routine.

3. By participating in meditation and daily routines performed by Namgyal monks I will be able to experience a better understanding of what the tibetan buddhist culture is about. Traveling or observing alone would not allow me to truly understand the culture the way I would by actually participating in it. Being included in the schedule of a monk can lead to a few things that people may not be able to find anywhere else. These things or practices may be something I choose to live in tandem with or I may decide to continue living the way I do now, however, the memories I will have from experiencing this culture will always be in my mind because they will confirm or change the way I view the Buddhist culture and the people who live it.

Approval: Accepted _____ Rejected _____ Conditional pending _____

From: WPM Forms
To: Cheryl Gunther
Subject: New Submission: Cultural Immersion Experience
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 11:25:10 AM

Question

Answer

IP

172.20.75.0

Date Time

2017-10-30 11:25:05

Last Name

First Name

Major

Environmental Science

Grad Year

2018

IC email address

Student ID

Advisor

Susan Allen-Gil

Where and when do you plan to fulfill your cultural immersion? Be specific:

Mid-January 2018, I intend to make a trip to Buckannon, West Virginia.

How long do you plan to spend there?

I will spend 3-4 days.

Are you working with a particular organization for your cultural immersion experience?

yes

If you answered yes to the question above, what organization? If no, leave blank.

I will volunteer with Stockert Youth Center, which runs a number of year round after-school programs for children, including tutoring services and a gardening program. In addition, I will reach out to West Virginia Wesleyan College for other community outreach activities in which I may be able to participate

Buckhannon, West Virginia, as well as the surrounding area, is far more conservative than any community I have lived in to date. Coal is one of West Virginia's primary economic resources and many people in the area of Buckhannon rely on the coal industry for employment and income. As coal use in the United States declines so does West Virginia's GDP and employment rates in the communities surrounding coal mines and processing facilities.

How is your proposed experience related to environmental studies or science?

My experience is related to environmental studies because it involves interacting with a community that is dependent on fossil fuels not just for energy, but also for employment and income. I hope that my experience will help me better understand the social issues underlying the decline of fossil fuel production in the United States. I also would like to know what views community members hold on greener alternative forms of energy.

In addition, I hope to work with the gardening program while I volunteer in the Stockert Youth Center. I hope this experience gives me the opportunity to better understand the differences in views on food production between the communities that I have lived in and communities like Buckhannon, where agriculture has more of a presence in the local economy.

How will your proposed experience involve 40 hours of direct involvement with a group of people from a culture other than what you have experienced to date?

I will interact with the community while I volunteer and through other community experiences I will seek out through West Virginia Wesleyan College and through suggestions of extended family members I have in the area, such as meetings and one-on-one interactions with community members.

How is your proposed experience a deeper, more critical cultural immersion experience than travel or observation alone?

I intend to use interviewing and researching skills I have learned while pursuing my journalism minor to investigate the topics that interest me most. I will be objective in my conversations with people and seek out experiences that relate directly to my learning objectives. I will treat my visit as if I were to eventually use the information I gather to write a journalistic piece on either the current state of the fossil fuel industry in West Virginia or on the views of the community on the decline of coal industry and on alternative energies.