

SELF-DESIGNED HONORS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT PROPOSAL

Proposals are held to high standards. Each of these elements must be included in your proposal and project:

1. **Abstract:**

Provide a detailed overview of this project so that a reader with no background on this topic would fully understand your project goals and what you intend to learn. If you are proposing a global studies experience, provide an itinerary. *What does the project entail and why is it personally meaningful?*

Describe the extent of your time commitment (planning, executing, and reflecting). Your experience should be equivalent to a 3-credit hour honors seminar. While the quality of the experience and your ability to meet learning outcomes are most important, you should engage in at least **75-90 hours** of direct contact and/or preparation, research, and reflection. *Describe both the quantity and quality of your time commitment to this experience.*

2. **Connection to Learning Outcomes within an Honors Thematic Area:**

Your project should result in substantial learning through which you make progress towards meeting specific learning outcomes within the thematic area. You must **explicitly** choose (i.e., copy and paste) 2-3 honors learning outcomes associated with the thematic area (see page 2 for the complete list of learning outcomes). *List 2-3 honors learning outcomes that you will make progress towards achieving as a result of your project. Then, explain how your actions related to the project will help you meet the learning outcomes you identified. Provide specific examples.*

3. **Connection to Goals and Academic Theories (This is a two-part prompt):**

A. Your project must be related to your development (personal, academic, and/or professional goals). *How does this project contribute to your future personal, academic and/or professional goals?*

B. You are expected to connect academic theories or readings to your experiential learning work. Your proposal should identify several theories or readings you plan to explore in your project. *Name 2-3 specific theories and/or readings you will use to prepare or gain background knowledge for your project. Explain how/why you chose your resources and how they will inform your project. Provide citations, as appropriate. Your self-designed project advisor(s) can lend their expertise and help you brainstorm relevant resources.*

4. **Initiative, Independence, and/or Creativity:**

Your project must include a unique/independent/creative contribution and some aspect(s) of the project must be self-initiated. *What is your unique contribution to this project? What skills, ideas, or previous experiences do you bring to the table? How is your involvement unique as compared to other participants? How have you demonstrated initiative?*

5. **Reflection:**

Reflection leads to higher-level conceptual learning and can take many forms (e.g., journals, lab notebooks, blogs, sketchbooks). Reflection is not merely a summation of activities completed and opinions formed; rather, it should be thoughtful, integrative, substantive, and well-crafted. Your project must have an active reflective component. *How will you actively reflect on your learning throughout the experience? Describe the format for reflection and what you will reflect upon (i.e., provide a list of reflection questions).*

Additionally, in order for a project to be considered completed:

- You must write and [submit](#) a [reflective essay](#) through the [honors database](#) within one month of project completion (more details available on the UHP website).
- You must [document](#) the experience in your learning portfolio.

6. **Dissemination:**

Your experience and learning must be shared with others publically (e.g., presentations to student groups, poster display, websites, published papers/articles, video compilations, scrapbooks). *With whom and how will you share what you learned/created with others in a public forum? Why is the specific audience you chosen relevant?*

7. **Project Advisor(s):**

Projects must involve the guidance of a faculty/staff member, mentor, supervisor, or other person with whom you can develop a base of knowledge. Your project advisor should provide their expertise to assist you with the development and execution of your project. *Who will help you conceptualize this project and provide you with support? Provide the name, title, contact information, and a statement explaining the expertise of each advisor.* Note: This will not be your honors advisor or another student.

8. **Budget:**

A budget is not required. To request an honors grant to support this project, provide an itemized budget listing all of your project-related expenses and evidence to back up your estimates. To request grant funding for unpaid research or an unpaid internship, please list the total number of hours you will work per week and the total number of weeks. If you plan to receive funding from other sources, please indicate that in your budget. **Grant funding is impacted by the quality of your proposal.**

HONORS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your project should result in substantial learning through which you make progress towards meeting 2-3 of the learning outcomes for an Honors Thematic Area. Your proposal must focus on one thematic area; choose one that best fits your goals.

Learning Outcomes for the Community Engagement Theme:

- Possesses awareness of purpose of service, including need for reciprocity, understanding of social issues, and ability to see those issues from multiple perspectives.
- Recognizes how public policies and practices, and power and privilege, have an influence on social issues. Explores ways to alter public policy and/or identify solutions.
- Relates, communicates, and works effectively with others towards sustainable social change.
- Participates in community and understands own role as citizen of community.

Learning Outcomes for the Creative Arts Theme (*adapted from AAC&U Creative Thinking VALUE Rubric*):

- Acquires or further develops competencies within a particular creative domain.
- Possesses ability to define the creative problem; ability to frame and develop a problem statement and appropriate methodology.
- Possess a well-developed awareness of theories and methods in the field.
- Demonstrates/takes appropriate risk in successfully completing project (going beyond original parameters of assignment, introducing new materials and forms, tackling controversial topics, advocating unpopular ideas or solutions, etc.).
- Possesses ability to embrace contradictions and integrate alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives.
- Possesses ability to think innovatively.
- Connects, synthesizes, and transforms ideas.

Learning Outcomes for the Global Studies Theme:

- Possess global literacy, including knowledge of geography, history, current world issues and similarities and differences among cultures
- Recognize the interdependence of world economies, political systems and the environment
- Interact with individuals from different cultures and express a sensitivity, appreciation and respect for the complex range of experiences of diverse peoples
- Participate in a global society and understand the role of a global citizen

Note: If you are planning a self-designed travel experience, you must include a detailed itinerary. You are required to attend a pre-departure orientation session with UC International Programs if your honors experiential learning project involves international travel. It is your responsibility to schedule a session with UC International. At minimum, your time abroad should be at least 1 week. Proposals for experiences with less than 1 week of travel will not be approved.

Additionally, the [Student Travel Policy](#) restricts UC sponsored- travel to countries under a [U.S. Department of State Travel Warning](#). Those who wish to visit a country with a travel warning may download and complete a [Travel Exemption Form](#).

Students traveling without a faculty or staff leader must individually request an exemption. Faculty or staff leading a group of students must complete a request on behalf of the entire group.

The University Honors Program cannot approve any travel to a country with a US Department of State Travel Warning until after the a travel exemption is granted by the International Travel Overview Committee. ***This means that we cannot allow you to count this travel as an honors experience nor can we give you a grant if the ITOC does not approve travel.***

Learning Outcomes for the Leadership Theme:

- Possesses knowledge of various leadership theories and identifies with the characteristics of leadership
- Identifies the various characteristics of a leader in a given situation/role
- Has the ability to relate, communicate and work effectively with peers
- Develops a vision of the future and acknowledges the impact of decisions (as applicable to the individual and affiliated organizations)

Learning Outcomes for the Research Theme:

- Ability to frame and develop the research project question or problem.
- Possess a well-developed awareness of literature in the field.
- Formulate a theory, problem, or hypothesis for the proposed research project that is based on the literature review.
- Ability to identify and apply appropriate methodologies to design research study, and collect and analyze data.
- Disseminate the research results and knowledge gained.
- Demonstrate awareness of key weakness/limitations of the research and provide guidance on the most important and fruitful directions for future research on this topic.
- Ability to think beyond the just completed research and articulate how your world view has been impacted by the experience.

HONORS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Complete this proposal **prior** to your project's start date and upload it in the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Create a project ("Add a new record") in the "Tracking Project" tab and then upload your proposal document as an attachment. The deadline for [submitting proposals](#) is on the 5th of each month.

While the quality of the proposal is most important, strong proposals are typically 3-4 pages in length (single-spaced). Please maintain the proposal format.

Basic Information

Full Name: Jennifer St. John
 UC Email: stjohnja@mail.uc.edu
 College: Nursing
 Major: Nursing
 Title of Project: University of Cincinnati College of Nursing International Clinical Experience - Ecuador
 Thematic Area (choose only one): Global Studies
 Expected Project Start Date: August 1, 2015
 Expected Project End Date: August 12, 2015

Project Information

1. Provide a detailed abstract of your proposed honors experiential learning project.

Through the UC College of Nursing International Clinical Experience, I will be traveling to Ecuador this August. The International Clinical Experience is one that the College of Nursing provides to select students in order to give them the opportunity to live, work, and practice their skills overseas. For me personally, this trip will be my first study abroad and I plan to take full advantage of every moment! I have been waiting for this study abroad opportunity because my finances have never warranted a trip, but I couldn't pass up on what is likely my last opportunity. I understand the impact and learning opportunity that studying abroad has, so I made it a point to save up funds for one experience. In choosing the best study abroad for me, I could not turn down an opportunity that directly applies to my major and desire to serve the underprivileged. Through the trip I will gain a new perspective on international health care, I will work in the under-served areas of the area while working alongside, and learning from, the local community health care workers. The International Clinical Experience will be a holistic learning opportunity and will allow me to not only learn about health care in another culture, but also provide me a chance to put my classroom and clinical learnings to the test. When I return I will do everything that I can to share my experiences with others in hope that they too will choose to participate in a study abroad.

Itinerary:

Sat. 8/1	Sun. 8/2	Mon. 8/3	Tues. 8/4	Wed. 8/5	Thur. 8/6	Fri. 8/7	Sat. 8/8	Sun. 8/9	Mo. 8/10	Tu. 8/11	We. 8/12
Flight from CVG to Atlanta, then ATL to Quito	Orientation, visit Basilica	Health promoter training: community health	Health promoter training: preventative	Health promoter training: illness prevention	Health promoter training: basic first aid	Certificate ceremony for new health promoters	Pack up and leave for Mindo	Optional activities	Split workshop in Santo Tomas and Quito Sur	Split workshop in Santo Tomas and Quito Sur	Geriatric Center activity
	Café Espiral	CSHH	CSHH	CSHH	CSHH	CSHH	Mindo	Mindo	HUCV	HUCV	HUCV
	Santo Domingo	Interactive teamwork workshop with health promoters	Home visits with health promoters and community nurse	Home visits with health promoters and community nurse	Home visits with health promoters and community nurse	Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens and hospital visit	Waterfall hikes	Leave for Quito	Home visits	Home visits	Certificate ceremony with Quito health promoters
	Casa Santa Rosa	Casa Santa Rosa	Casa Santa Rosa	Casa Santa Rosa	Casa Santa Rosa	D'Marco with CSHH staff	Mindo	Otavalo Huasi	Otavalo Husai	Otavalo Husai	Final dinner at Romolo e Remo
Arrive at Otavalo Huasi	Preparation for next day	Reflection	Salsa lesson	Cultural movie night		Optional outing	Optional activities	Preparation for Quito workshops		Quito Eterno: night tour of Quito's Colonial center	Depart for Airport from Quito to ATL to CVG

Clearly and thoroughly address how each of the following elements will be exhibited in your work:

2. Connection to Learning Outcomes within the Honors Thematic Area (identified above)
Possess global literacy, including knowledge of geography, history, and current world issues and similarities and differences among cultures.

I first want to prepare for the trip to Ecuador by conducting research on the area, people, and health care process. I want to adequately prepare myself in order to take full advantage of the experience. Because Ecuador is a third world country it will be quite a culture shock to live there for 12 days. I want to be prepared for what I may see in order to be able to provide optimal care for those that I am serving. Knowing background information about Ecuador will allow me to be a more effective caretaker while there. I want to make sure that I understand their culture so that I can interact with the natives in a respectful and appropriate manner. Beginning with an understanding of the culture in Ecuador will also allow me to gain insights as to the similarities and differences between Ecuadorian culture and our culture here in the US. Identifying and understanding these differences will be key in my ability to connect with my patients and have the greatest impact possible during my 12-day trip.

Participate in a global society and understand the role of a global citizen.

I will be able to work alongside health promoters to teach community members, as well as embark on home visits to provide more individualized care. I want to revisit the nursing skills that I learned in the Fundamentals of Nursing course to ensure that my practice will benefit the natives. I recognize that practicing my learnings in another country may not be as easy as it first appears on paper, but working through that will help me better understand the barriers faced by native citizens and allow me to develop my ability to adapt throughout the 12 days of the trip. I will also create a learning project for the community on “Zumba and Exercise”, to help instill the health benefits movements have on the body, mind, and soul. I believe that participating in the community in these ways will allow me to participate in a global society outside of my own and begin to understand the role of a global citizen.

3. Connection to Goals and Academic Theories (include reference list, as appropriate)

A. I am currently studying to become a practicing Registered Nurse. I wish to practice as a culturally competent nurse who values diversity not only in patients, but in my co-workers as well. I wish to partake in an experience that allows me to reach out to underserved communities with limitations of healthcare access and socioeconomic levels. I want to also work with community leaders and local health promoters to provide care that these communities deserve. I took Community of Nursing in the Fall of 2014. This course outlined community opportunities that a nurse can partake in; however, these opportunities were limited to the United States. I also believe that these opportunities are more advanced than the citizens of Ecuador may have. I want to compare American community nursing to the community nursing that is available in Ecuador. Understanding the Ecuadorian health care system and community and the practices and culture that exists there will help me solidify my fundamental nursing skills and allow me to be a more effective Registered Nurse.

This experience will prove invaluable later in life because I will be able to experience the health disparities that the people of Ecuador have, and how they operate because of it. I will gain a sense understanding of the poverty level and be aware of the resources that the health care workers have to practice their profession. This experience will help provide me with insight to structure and organize my own priorities as I practice nursing in the future. Additionally, I have the desire to live and work overseas at some point in my career. This early exposure to nursing in another country will be extremely helpful in my future career.

Aside from furthering my classroom knowledge and exploring a particular region’s nursing practice, this trip means a lot to me because it gives me the opportunity to give back to the world around me and make a difference in the lives of others. My purpose in life is to utilize my talents and practice to have a positive impact on as many people as I can. Going to Ecuador will allow me to practice these past four years of classroom education, and allow me to utilize them to make a difference in the lives of many citizens in Ecuador.

B. In preparation for the study abroad, my peers and I are reading *The Queen of Water* by Laura Resau and Maria Virginia Farinango. The story is based off of Virginia’s life as she grew up in Ecuador in the 1980’s. Virginia experienced poverty, abuse, identity, and eventually triumph. It explains the history of Ecuador, which contained two classes of people; the indigenas or native people and the mestizos or Spanish Europeans who conquered South America. I want to use this novel to learn more about the life of

a native, especially an impoverished one, and eventually, use what I have read and what I have been taught to impact the lives of Ecuadorians during our trip.

I will also prepare myself through reading *The Health System of Ecuador* by Ruth Lucio, Nilhda Villacres, and Rodrigo Henriquez. I want to use this article to better study the health conditions in Ecuador and learn more about the Ecuadorian health system. This article will provide me with an overview of the current illnesses and care that the natives have. Understanding the community around me and the common ailments that they face will allow me to use my time in Ecuador helping the citizens, and not just understanding the ailments that they face.

Citations:

Lucio, Ruth, Villacrés, Nilhda, & Henríquez, Rodrigo. (2011). Sistema de salud de Ecuador. *Salud Pública de México*, 53(Suppl. 2), s177-s187. Retrieved May 04, 2015, from http://www.scielosp.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0036-36342011000800013&lng=en&tlng=es. 10.1590/S0036-36342011000800013.

Resau, L., & Farinango, M. (2011). *The Queen of Water*. New York: Delacorte Press.

4. Initiative, Independence, and/or Creativity

The UC CoN Clinical Experience has planned the trip through Timmy Global Health. Timmy Global Health expands “access to healthcare and empowers students and volunteers to tackle today’s most pressing global health challenges” (Timmyglobalhealth.org). Timmy Global Health was founded in 1997, and their connections with the Ecuador communities may limit some independence on the agenda of the trip. However, my incorporation of the Honors Program and reflection will allow me to invest more in the trip. I want to go further in my educational experience and commit myself to focusing on ensuring that I am being purposeful abroad. I am independent in my personal research, preparation, and then in my future conversations and care with the natives.

In middle and high school, I took five total years of Spanish. My commitment to studying the language will help better me in my communication with the natives. I want to utilize my past education to help lay a foundation for my hopes of living abroad in the future. A career goal of mine is to be a professor of nursing. I want to have my own lived experiences in order to help my future students. Going to Ecuador gives me a great platform for mentoring and advising students as they choose their study abroad opportunities.

5. Reflection

The majority of my reflection will be based on a journal that I will keep throughout the trip. In addition to the journal I want to reflect on my use of Spanish, and how the natives receive my accent. I want to also reflect on the work and nursing care that we are performing for the natives. I want to note how my teaching sessions go to community members, and then how my home visits are received. I will be taking my camera to help record the events of the trip that will allow me to share images to better tell the story of my gained experience.

Another point of reflection that I want to consider and make point to take note of is the many differences between health care in Ecuador and the US. I want to be able to utilize what I learned in my Community Nursing course to compare the different cultures and professions of nursing. Through reflection, I will be able to conduct my own theories on best practices of nursing.

6. Dissemination

I will disseminate the learning experiences that I had gained from Ecuador by publishing it on my Learning Portfolio, as well as constructing a video capturing my journal writing, photos, and my learning outcomes from the trip. I will also be conducting a Senior Capstone project from my experience, and will have the opportunity to present it to my fellow peers and the College of Nursing faculty and staff. Additionally, I will be sharing my experiences before, during (subject to internet access), and after my trip for all to see.

I want to also utilize this opportunity that I am given to share it with current nursing students. I am currently President of AMBITION, a student organization within the UC College of Nursing that promotes diversity and

inclusion through a mentoring program. I want to show AMBITION the opportunities that exist in the College of Nursing and give them something to work towards and aspire to.

7. Project Advisor(s)
 Diane Grever, Assistant
 Professor of Clinical, College of Nursing
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 513-558-4467

8. Budget

Air Fare	\$1,200.00
Timmy Global Health Package (includes lodging, most meals)	\$1,300.00
Additional Costs (Leader/Insurance/Classroom/etc.)	\$595.00
Total	\$3,095.99

This budget was provided by Heather Ashworth, Assistant Director, from UC International Programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration for my first Honors Experiential Learning Proposal. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you all upon my return!