



Global Engagement Opportunities: Request for Letter of Intent

Request for Letter of Intent:

The Center for Civic Leadership is requesting letters of intent (LOI) for our Global Engagement Opportunities (GEO) program. GEO trips are designed to create a sustainable and ethical model for introductory student learning on an international scale. The GEO program builds on an academic course to offer a related international experience over the spring break or early summer. GEO trips are short-term and focus on student exposure to social issues that have global implications. Our aims are twofold: 1) to produce student leaders who are prepared to be critical thinkers and 2) to create meaningful, and mutually beneficial partnerships among Rice faculty, students, and the international community. Expanding the scope of academic courses and opportunities to apply academic content in an international context offers Rice students a rich alternative to semester study abroad experiences, leverages Rice's existing international networks, and promotes greater faculty-student interaction. We are seeking LOIs from faculty for short-term, academically-integrated, international trips.

Overview:

The Center for Civic Leadership's international programs apply civic research and critical service pedagogies to complex global problems, coupling student understanding of context and content with a study of the ethical principles involved in international work. The most important consideration for global engagement is ethical interaction with all stakeholders in its execution. For example, programs must be mutually beneficial, taking into consideration the academic teaching moment for the student, as well as the growth, capacity, and opportunity for local partners. By employing ethical frameworks for engagement, such as asset-based and rights-based approaches, CCL programs ensure that activities prioritize the needs and assets of community stakeholders.

The Center for Civic Leadership's model for global engagement adheres to our Learn-Act-Create Change scaffold, which progressively develops the knowledge and skills necessary for students to effect social change. Community engagement, civic-research, and critical service-learning experiences allow students to learn through interaction and collaboration with communities, observing solutions and approaches to challenges that are framed by a different cultural lens.¹ In 2018, a GEO trip to Chiapas, Mexico led by Dr. Jorge Loyo partnered with Fundacion Cantaro Azul, a local non-profit focused on water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. Students developed a water sample incubator in dialogue with the organization in their spring semester ENGI 120 classroom. With the guidance of faculty members and the Center, students travelled to Chiapas for ten days in May to test, trouble-shoot, and install the incubator based on the organization's needs.

¹ Guidelines for Community Engagement, Service-Learning, and Volunteer Experiences Abroad. The Forum on Education Abroad. Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 2018.



Program Structure:

The GEO program builds upon a course for which a short-term international component would enhance course content and offer students the opportunity to apply and test disciplinary knowledge. Faculty can work with the CCL to define an international experience, identify international partners, and prepare a minimum of four students for the travel. GEO programs are intended to be accessible for student participants. Towards this end, the Center subsidizes each trip up to \$5,000 and provides financial aid for qualifying students for trip-related expenses. We recommend a nominal fee to student to be a maximum of \$300 to ensure that the trip is accessible for all Rice University students. We also support GEO trips in securing additional departmental and/or institutional funding through a developmental approach to student proposal writing.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Faculty Member
 - Spring course offering with identified international component
 - Trip design and execution
 - Student recruitment
 - Academic preparation foregrounding the trip and its goals
 - Partner outreach
- Community Partner
 - Co-educator on social issue of relevance to the purpose of the trip
- Center for Civic Leadership
 - Pre-trip and Post-trip curriculum, including opportunities for local engagement
 - Up to \$5,000 in financial support towards the full cost of the trip
 - Financial aid to offset trip related expenses for qualifying students
 - Support associated with partner outreach and evaluation
 - Support for logistics, including accommodation, transportation, and food
- Students
 - Cost of passport, visas, vaccines, and other travel related personal expenses
 - Behavior in accordance with Rice University's Code of Conduct
 - Enrollment in associated course and attendance at pre-trip and post-trip meetings

LOI Requirements:

A letter of intent must be submitted by Monday, December 10th, 2018 for a trip to be conducted prior to the Fall 2019 academic year. The document must address the following considerations:

1. What are the destination(s), duration, and projected dates of the trip?
2. How many students will be recruited for the trip, and how?
3. How is the trip academically integrated with a course taught at the university?
4. What are the desired learning outcomes of the trip?
5. What community organizations will be partners in the trip and in what role?
6. What is the community or social impact of the trip?
7. What is the projected cost of the trip?