Community and Planetary Health and Sustainability

Immerse yourself in the biological and cultural diversity of Guatemala. Five weeks of study and exploration will illuminate how global climate change continues to cause disruption and impact population movements. Think beyond borders to consider our greater geopolitical context and globalized society, where issues of sustainable development, human security, and global citizenship affect us all.

Become an effective sustainability leader in today’s interconnected and interdependent world. By studying in this UCI credit program, you will foster the transition towards a more just, healthy and sustainable future.

Program Advantages

• Earn UCI units abroad

• Study with UCI Public Health faculty member, Dr. Mojgan Sami and SERES, a Guatemalan NGO and world leader in providing educational programs for sustainable development that was recently awarded UNESCO’s prize on Education for Sustainable Development.

• Develop leadership skills and an understanding of the relationship between planetary health, community health and sustainability

• Increase your self-confidence and independence

• Enjoy a comprehensive itinerary of field trips and co-curricular learning opportunities

• Develop stronger personal goals and values

• Add valuable experiences to your resume
ACADEMICS (These courses will appear on your UCI transcript with the notation ‘completed in Guatemala’.)

PUB HLTH 100: International Public Health Practice. 4 units
Public health has a tradition of community engagement for health promotion and facilitation of community leadership to advocate for a higher degree of community control over the decisions that impact the health of individuals, families and communities. Students will receive hands-on training on sustainability leadership in an effort to advance student understanding of activist scholarship. In addition, they will learn about approaches and methods of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR).

PUB HLTH 125 / Planning, Policy, and Design 112: Foundations of Community Health. 4 units
A social ecological framework for understanding community health is presented. Measures of individual and community health are compared, and the influence of personal and environmental factors on individual, group, and population health is examined. Community health promotion strategies are discussed.

In the field in Guatemala, this course will introduce students to diverse frameworks of community development through critical perspectives on concepts such as health, knowledge, power and sustainability. We will reflect on the three protagonists of community life: individuals, communities and institutions and how the relationships between these protagonists affect decisions in policy, planning and regulatory frameworks which impact the populations they support. Students will analyze the multi-dimensional causes of the uneven geographical distribution of economic development, health and sustainability and relate this knowledge to current planning, public health and policy-making practices at the local and global levels.

FIELD TRIPS/EXCURSIONS
Journey from the UNESCO-listed colonial town of Antigua, to the beautiful Lake Atitlan and up into the Guatemalan highlands around Quetzaltenango for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Organized field trips will deepen your understanding of the complex interactions between sustainability, climate change, and community health and help you practice the skills learned from course material. Activities are a mixture of hands-on learning, interactions with local practitioners and community leaders, with ample opportunities to explore the cultural and biological diversity of this incredible country.

Meet with young sustainability leaders from different settings and bridge across traditional boundaries (social, economic, cultural) while tackling some of the biggest questions facing our region regarding community and planetary health. Further, develop a support network and strong sense of community and solidarity with your peers.

PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER 2016  Enrollment now open!
Email summer-session@uci.edu or call (949)824-7649 for further information. Please visit us below: