Ignatian Service Immersion Q&As 2018-2019

What am I committing to through ISI?
The Ignatian Service Immersion program is a comprehensive formation and immersion program that spans nearly a full calendar year. While the summer trip is a culminating moment, the formation, preparation, fundraising, community-building, and follow-up reflection are essential components of the overall experience.

The total ISI commitment includes:
- 4 ISI Formation Meetings (2-3 hours each month, including reading/preparation) on three program components: (1) public health/global health theory & praxis, (2) principles and practices of Ignatian spirituality, and (3) immersion “toolkit” covering trip logistics and processes
- Time spent on personal fundraising commitment
- Participation in student-led fundraisers throughout Spring 2019 (5-10 hours total)
- Appointment with Travel Clinic or PCP
- Reflection & Evaluation: “Giving back and making it better”
  - Written reflection project upon return from ISI experience
  - Evaluation: Both written evaluation and face-to-face debriefing sessions upon return
- Fundraising events and preparation of future ISI participants during the 2019-2020 year (2-4 hours)

What costs are involved?
- Trips cost HSD Ministry approximately $2,000-$3,500 per student to cover all expenses (airfare, ground transportation, housing, food, on-site support services, educational materials, supplies and site donations). These expenses are covered through: (1) university support, (2) HSD Ministry fundraising events, with ISI participants serving as volunteers, and (3) a participant fundraising commitment.

- We require each participant to raise $1250 in donations, depending on the length of trip you attend. You can collect money from friends, family, and community organizations, or brainstorm your own ways to raise funds. The initial fundraising contribution submitted with your application counts towards this personal fundraising amount. Contributions are made online via the ISI donation website or check, made payable to “Loyola University Chicago.”

- ALL fundraising contributions are non-refundable, including the initial contribution made with application submission. Should you be unable to complete your ISI commitment or trip, your funds will be transferred to the larger ISI fundraising account for future trips.

- ISI participants are expected to contribute to fundraising events through their presence and leadership.

- As a Loyola University policy, you must enroll in the University’s Travel Insurance policy, which will cost an additional, out-of-pocket $45 per month of travel. Enrollment information will be provided.

- For international trips, travel clinic appointments and immunizations can cost an additional, out-of-pocket $200-400, depending on trip location and your health insurance. You are responsible for making this appointment, either through your primary care physician or through Loyola’s Travel Clinic and deciding, together, necessary immunizations for your trip. Visit the CDC Travel website for more information by country and region: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel.

- Cost should not be the primary factor that turns you away from ISI. If expense is an issue, please speak to one of the HSD Ministry staff and submit an application for sponsorship through the ISI Scholarship Fund. A limited number of scholarships are available to students who otherwise would be unable to participate in ISI without financial support.
What are the next steps?

- Visit the ISI website to research more about trip destinations and program goals.
- Think seriously about your ability, enthusiasm, and commitment to all of the ISI goals and expectations.
- Consider your other options & plans: research, family commitments, vacations/graduations/weddings, local service, other professional and personal commitments.
- Talk with family members & friends about your desire to do ISI (especially your parents/spouse).
- Talk with HSD Ministry staff to help sort-out any thoughts or concerns.
- Talk with past participants about their experiences and wisdom
- If interested, complete the ISI online application on or before the deadline, including making your initial fundraising contribution: https://hsd.luc.edu/isi/forms-applications/

What is the process for application and acceptance?

A. Applications will be opened online at: http://hsd.luc.edu/isi/forms-applications/. Complete ALL forms. Do not wait until the day of the deadline! The application includes short answer and essay responses, uploading several medical forms and a copy of your passport, and an initial fundraising contribution paid online. Initial fundraising contributions are non-refundable.

B. Complete a group interview with Ministry staff. We will contact you about setting up an appointment after the application deadline.

Visit the ISI Website: https://hsd.luc.edu/isi