

Immersion Programs: Haiti & Nicaragua

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The Arrupe Immersion Program is a faith-based program with the mission to develop a "well-educated" solidarity for our students in the Jesuit tradition. Solidarity begins with contact with people on the peripheries, which serves as a catalyst for intellectual inquiry, moral reflection, and spiritual growth.

Whether the travel is local, domestic, or international, our primary focus is deepening relationships with others and with God. The experiences are rooted in prayer and reflection, and any work performed will be secondary to the time we spend with individuals in their environments. Our hope is to allow for the possibility of a more mutual relationship where those who welcome us into their homes or who share their stories with us are not seen primarily as people whom we have come to "help" but rather as companions on the journey.

Haiti Program

This seven day experience takes place in January and is facilitated by a local organization called Be Like Brit. The group is led by a chaplain and a student leader and involves a variety of experiences to help students explore the reality of Haiti, especially after the devastating earthquake of 2010.

The Haiti Experience

The students will stay in the Be Like Brit Orphanage in the town of Grand Goave, approximately 55 miles

southwest of Port-au-Prince. The group will spend mornings building a home for a family in need and afternoons running activities at the orphanage. The group will also take in the natural beauty of the country with visits to surrounding towns.

Practical Information

The cost of the program is \$1,900 which includes flights, meals, and accommodations. Financial aid is available for those in need of additional support.

An informational meeting is held in late March or early April with selections completed prior to final spring exams. The group of 11 students will meet regularly throughout the fall semester to prepare.

Nicaragua Program

This 10-day experience takes place in January and is facilitated by International Partners in Mission. The group is led by a Holy Cross chaplain and student leader and involves a variety of experiences to help students explore the social, economic, and political reality in Nicaragua. The most notable experience for students is the opportunity for a rural homestay with families.

The Nicaragua Experience

Our immersion is based at La Posadita de Bolonia, a guest house in the capital city of Managua. During most days, students will be transported to various IPM partner sites throughout Nicaragua, including those dedicated to rural health care, remedial education for young adults, and developing sustainable economic opportunities for women. The group will also take in the natural beauty of the country with visits to a volcano and stunning lakes.

Practical information

The typical cost is approximately \$1,800-\$2,000 which includes all flights, meals, and accommodations. Financial aid is available.

An informational meeting is held in late March or early April with selections completed prior to spring final exams. The group of 13-15 students will meet regularly throughout the fall semester to prepare. [View a sample itinerary.](#)

Goals of Immersion Program: Create community among the participants, exposing participants to people of faith living on the peripheries and to experience some aspects of their reality, ensuring that staff and student leaders are modeling appropriate engagement and serving as leaders for engaging in said dialogue and relationship building, discover God's activity in the communities of the people we visit as well as the lives of the participants, and encourage the students to continue asking questions raised by experience.