



NIU-Omprakash Global Internship Program

On-Campus Component:

May 15 – June 2, 2017

Overseas Internship Component:

June 5 – July 28, 2017

Online Component:

February 15 – September 1, 2017

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the Department of NGO Leadership and Development, the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, University Honors and Omprakash.

PROGRAM DATES: The program will officially begin with the 1 semester hour course on Monday, May 15, 2017 in DeKalb, on the NIU campus, and will end on Friday, June 2, 2017. The overseas internship component will begin with departure on or after June 5 with an internship that must run through at least July 28. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements.

Students who participate in the NIU Global Internship Program will work with Omprakash to identify an internship site and will work with the internship site to identify a starting date of June 5 running through at least July 28 (8-week minimum, with at least 120 contact hours).

PROGRAM DIRECTORS: **Renique Kersh, Ph.D.**, Professor of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education in the College of Education and Associate Vice Provost for Engaged Learning in the Office of the Provost. Dr. Kersh has been a scholar and practitioner in the field of higher education since 1999. Dr. Kersh has had a diverse career with experience as a practitioner in the areas of college student retention, leadership education and college student success and engagement. Although, Dr. Kersh's career began in student affairs, she has spent the last several years working in academic affairs as both an administrator and a professor teaching courses in leadership, college student retention and student development theory. Dr. Kersh is an active member of the Council on Undergraduate Research, Leadership Illinois, the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators, and the International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement.

Anne Hanley, Ph.D. Associate Professor of History and Interim Director of NGO Leadership and Development. Dr. Hanley teaches courses on modern Latin America, with an emphasis on the region's economic, political, and social underdevelopment. She regularly teaches Modern

Latin America, a survey from independence (1820s) to the present, and History of Brazil, which covers the sweep of Brazilian history from the early encounters between Amerindians, Europeans, and Africans to the modern day. She also offers the course Inequality in Latin America that explores the roots of modern Latin America's persistent gap between rich and poor. Dr. Hanley received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1995.

Todd A. Gilson, Director, University Honors Program, Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education. As the director of the University Honors program Dr. Todd Gilson works closely with the honors students in facilitating a unique college experience that fosters both the sense of a tight knit community and provides benefits afforded by a research university. Dr. Gilson strives to lead a program that allows students to assimilate new knowledge through experiential learning in the classroom, as well as through co-curricular and extracurricular activities outside of the traditional academic environment. Dr. Gilson's current research is focused on the link between key psychological constructs that help distinguish highly successful leaders and performers from less successful ones. From this line of inquiry he has worked with dozens of NCAA athletic institutions and U.S. Army ROTC programs around the country.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES: The primary purpose of this program is to provide participants with the opportunity to:

- Engage in an immersive international internship experience, leaving participants better prepared to understand and engage with local communities during their time abroad.
- Learn through dialogue and human relationships and will thoughtfully consider and begin to understand the needs and capacity of diverse global communities.
- Articulate why it's important to go beyond the "urge to help others" or "experience a new culture", but instead, ask questions, confront their context, explore deeply, build committed relationships, be challenged and articulate how what they learned informs their future as a socially responsible citizen.

Omprakash provides extensive online training and personalized mentorship to individuals who are interning within the Omprakash network of autonomous international grassroots social projects. The program encourages participants to think critically about international aid and volunteering, and works to push back against problematic trends in 'voluntourism.'

Immersive internships. Participants work within the Omprakash network of over 140 vetted autonomous organizations in over 40 countries and find positions within this network based on their skills and interests. Interns will communicate directly with these Partners to plan their work.

Academic credit. Students will be registered by the Study Abroad Office for a 1 semester hour course (May 15 – June 2) and a 3 semester hour course (June 5 – July 28) for the Summer 2017 session. The NIU Global Internship Program 1 semester hour NIU course has been accredited by schools across North America. The 1 semester hour course will be structured as a hybrid course with face-to-face meetings occurring on NIU's campus and the rest of the course will be online.

Students will complete the online curriculum in addition to engaging in thoughtful discussion and preparatory exercises before beginning their internship.

For the 3 semester hour internship course students should plan to seek approval for the internship course that is pertinent to their academic major. If their major does not have an internship course associated with it, students can be registered in INTL 301.

An extensive curriculum, online learning platform, and logistical support. During the online portion of the 1 semester hour course, students join peers in the Omprakash EdGE online pre-departure classroom to explore the moral, ethical, historical, environmental and economic complexities of international aid and volunteering. The EdGE platform also includes a ‘logistics’ section which guides students through topics such as visas, vaccinations, airfare, arranging accommodations, etc. This section can be customized to meet the specifications of NIU.

Personal mentorship. Students receive dedicated personal guidance from experienced [Omprakash EdGE mentors](#) before, during, and after their work abroad.

A structure to maximize impact. The NIU Global Internship Program culminates with the completion of a collaborative, creative, research-based Capstone Project, which is designed to be of lasting value to the host organization and shared throughout the Omprakash network and NIU.

PROGRAM SITE(S): The 3 semester hour internship experience allows students to choose from a variety of global sites. Omprakash provides a list of over 150 sites to choose from. The 1 semester hour course will be structured as a hybrid course with face-to-face meetings occurring on NIU’s campus and the rest of the course will be online.

HIGHLIGHTS: The NIU Global Internship Program is a partnership between NIU’s Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, the Center for NGO Leadership and Development, the University Honors Program and Omprakash, a non-profit organization, which helps facilitate the internship connection process and also provides valuable mentorship, training, and networking support. Participation in this program will give students an opportunity to work for a variety of global organizations that provide critical assistance to local communities. Placements are low-cost and high-impact, providing a challenging academic and personal student development experience. Students will not only “learn about new cultures” they will be encouraged to think critically about international aid and volunteering, and work to push back against problematic trends in ‘voluntourism.’ Students will become immersed in the communities for which they are interning and will be challenged to address personal biases, misinformed notations and ways to ensure that the community needs are being met.

PROGRAM AUDIENCE: Space is limited. Qualified applicants will be interviewed after the application deadline. Decisions on acceptance into the program will be determined shortly thereafter. The program is open to undergraduate students currently enrolled in at NIU. All majors are welcome. Omprakash provides internship opportunities that are specific to all NIU majors, minors and pathways.

INSTRUCTION METHOD: The internship experience is available in a variety of global sites. Omprakash provides a list of over 150 sites to choose from. The 1 semester hour course will be structured as a hybrid course with face-to-face meetings occurring on NIU's campus and the rest of the course will be online. The course will be shared by the three NIU partnering units and the faculty on record for the course will change from year to year. The face-to-face meetings will include critical reflection, presentations about internship sites and the surrounding communities, engaged discussion around topics like voluntourism, community needs, community-based participatory research and service and global scholarship.

Students will be asked to develop a final capstone for the 3 semester hour internship experience which will be presented to the larger campus community and will be shared with the Omprakash network. During the internship experience students will engage in community-based research, will be expected to complete scheduled blogs for which they will receive feedback from an Omprakash assigned mentor and to engage with their Omprakash mentor with questions or concerns throughout the experience. During the three week, 1 semester hour pre-departure course, students will meet other Omprakash interns, will begin communicating with global organizational partners and will engage in the curricular experiences mentioned above.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 1 semester hour of undergraduate for the pre-departure course and 3 semester hours for the identified internship course. The Study Abroad Office will register students for these courses for the Summer 2017 session.

INTL 201 Study Abroad Programs: Omprakash Global Internship and Leadership Program	
	1 semester hour
Description: This 1-credit hour hybrid pre-departure course will serve as the preparatory course for students interested in engaging in a global internship as part of the NIU Global Internship Program. In face-to-face meetings students engage in critical reflection, presentations about internship sites and the surrounding communities, discussion around topics like voluntourism, community needs, community-based participatory research and service and global scholarship. We will also spend time discussing the logistics of travel.	
AND	
Internship	3 semester hours
Description: Students will engage in an NIU-Omprakash internship and leadership development experience. Upon completion of the internship experience, students will be expected to publish a final 'Capstone Project' within the customized NIU online learning space curated by Omprakash. Students will also present a poster version of their Capstone upon their arrival to NIU.	
Procedure: Students must contact their advisor and/or major department in order to discuss internship course options in their major and to obtain internship course approval. Internship courses require an instructor of record so please make an appointment with the faculty member who will serve as the instructor of record for your internship course.	

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: The program is open to current NIU undergraduates who meet the NIU general admission requirements, and who are interested in

engaging in an intensive global internship experience. Currently enrolled students must meet NIU GPA requirements.

Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate course requirements.**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Office of Student Conduct, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the Registrar at their institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

APPLICATION: Click (link to program – provided by SAO) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for “(program country)” or the (program name) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the <https://niu.studioabroad.com> website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or niuabroad@niu.edu.

Applicants will be reviewed, and if eligible, provisionally accepted by NIU. Upon provisional acceptance into the program, students will have the opportunity to complete the application, via the Omprakash website, and move on to be considered for selection. Students may be invited to interview with program staff as well.

\$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: A \$200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$200 is broken down into \$100 for the non-refundable application fee and \$100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$200. More detailed instructions can be found on the website.

IMPORTANT – All applications will be categorized as “Pending – No Deposit” until the \$200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the \$200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the \$200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: ~~February 15, 2017.~~ **Extended to March 1, 2017.**

ACCOMMODATIONS, AIRFARE AND MEALS: The program cost does not cover accommodation, food, airfare, visas, vaccinations or any other cost related to the specific position. These additional costs are the student’s responsibility. Costs will vary depending on intended location and duration of stay. More information about specific costs can be found on each Omprakash Partner’s profile (www.omprakash.org). Housing will vary depending upon the internship site for which students are selected. Students will work directly with Omprakash Partners to secure housing which may vary from homestays to on-site accommodations. When browsing Omprakash Partner organizations and deciding where to seek out an internship, students will be able to read about accommodation details for each Partner. Omprakash provides support throughout this process within the EdGE online classroom and logistics section.

Estimated average ‘cost per day’ (covering food, accommodations, and other basics) of \$10-\$25, but these costs can vary significantly. Airfare can range from \$300 - \$2,000; visa fees from \$0 - \$150; miscellaneous spending money for laundry, snacks, etc. from \$50 - \$400 per month.

At any point before departure, all students are invited to apply to the Omprakash Ethical Global Engagement Grant program as well as the NIU Study Abroad Travel Grant. The NIU Study Abroad Travel Grant is a competitive grant application. Awardees of the Omprakash Ethical Global Engagement Grant are required to complete all components of the program, but the Omprakash program fee will be waived or reduced. Applicants for the Omprakash Ethical Global Engagement Grant program are expected to offer a clear vision of how they can make a long-term contribution to the mission of Omprakash. Learn more at www.omprakash.org/volunteer-abroad-grants.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements. Airfare can range from \$300 - \$2,000. For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to check-out additional airfare sites on the Internet.



Important - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program should not be booked until:

- a. After the February 15, 2017 application deadline.
- AND**
- b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled, **CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM**)

PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT--All participants are required to possess a valid passport by February 15, 2017. Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department's website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.



VISA: A valid passport is required in order to obtain a visa to enter the designated internship country. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one **immediately** upon acceptance into the program. Omprakash will assist students with visa applications.

PASSPORT, VISA AND ISIC PHOTOS: You may have your passport photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$5.00 for two photos. Photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. We accept exact cash, personal check or we can charge it to your bursar account. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. It is strongly recommended that students get an extra pair of photos taken to keep on their person while in China in case of a missing or stolen passport.



HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: Students will need to work with the Omprakash site to determine if there are any special health requirements for travel. All immunizations and/or other health considerations must be addressed prior to departure. The NIU University Health Service can administer most immunizations.

NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE: NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan will be enrolled by the Study Abroad Office. The NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan has a \$250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.

Omprakash also has travel insurance requirements that students will need to meet prior to participating in the NIU Global Internship Program.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD: The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

NIU PROGRAM COST: The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

- 1) Omprakash fee
- 2) International Student I.D.
- 3) NIU undergraduate credit
- 4) NIU major medical insurance and additional Omprakash Insurance

PROGRAM COST: \$1,685*

*This amount represents the total in charges and fees that will be paid to NIU for this program. Please note that the following charges will post individually on your MyNIU account:

- Study Abroad Program Charge
- Instructional Cost
- NIU Student Medical Insurance
- NIU Academic Program Enhancement Fee

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

The program fee for the NIU Global Internship Program in partnership with Omprakash is not tax-deductible.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:

- Airfare
- Housing and meals.
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$130, including 2 passport pictures).
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa.
- Immunization fees (*if immunizations are required*)
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

FINANCIAL AID: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Please contact Tim Condon, International Affairs Business Manager, Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, tcondon1@niu.edu for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing from the program after February 15, 2017 will not be refunded the NIU \$200 program application fee/deposit.

In addition to the NIU withdrawal penalty, applicants withdrawing from the program will be subject to withdrawal penalties imposed by Omprakash, and will be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. If an applicant withdraws before March 15, the Omprakash withdrawal penalty will be \$250. If an applicant withdraws after March 15 the Omprakash withdrawal penalty will be \$750. Penalties involving overseas vendors will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. These provisions are in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$200 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after February 15, 2017 for medical reasons, withdrawal penalties will be reviewed for consideration if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for one of the countries where Omprakash internships have been selected, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. Students may also choose a different internship site. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for the selected internship site students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program. Students can choose a different Omprakash site in this case as well.

The information contained in the program documents and forms are presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER
OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!**

INTL 201
NIU-Omprakash Global Internship Program
Course Syllabus

NIU Global Internship Program
Drs. Renique Kersh, Anne Hanley and Joel Stafstrom
Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, NGO
Leadership and Development, and University Honors

Required Book(s): *(List any required or recommended books.)*

None. All course materials are provided on-line.

Report: *(Provide requirements for reports, papers, projects, etc.)*

Students will be required turn in a final paper and present a final poster as part of their Capstone and will be required to present to the Omprakash Network and the NIU Campus Community.

The final capstone will include a final paper and a poster which will address the following questions:

- ❖ What are the core social issues that your host partner is seeking to address?
- ❖ How is your host working to address the issues? What are local perspectives about these issues and local strategies for addressing them?
- ❖ What is your role in this community and/or in relation to these issues
- ❖ How has this experience impacted your understanding of how you fit into the global society?
- ❖ What mis-perceptions, biases or misunderstandings did you have that were debunked through your experience?
- ❖ How did this experience impact your long-term goals (i.e., what's next?)

The goal of the capstone is to deepen students' appreciation of the of the complexity of the issues they work with and the relative merits or demerits of existing efforts to address that problem, and to reflect on their engagement with community residents and representatives to discuss community perspectives and strategies for social change.

The deadline for submission of report/project, etc. is *September 1, 2017*.

Final paper and poster are required to be submitted by no later than 5 weeks following the end of the internship experience.

Pre-departure Hybrid Course Schedule, May 15 - June 2:

The course has three main sections in which students explore their motivations for volunteering, the origins and consequences of inequality, and what it means to understand and engage with another culture. Each unit asks students to reflect on an essential question by exploring readings and videos that delve into that topic. At the end of each unit, students respond to a series of prompts to deepen their understanding of that lesson. Additional content is designed to prepare students for the logistics of the experience and to establish expectations for the capstone projects they are required to submit at the end of their experience.

Week of May 15:

Face to Face: Monday and Friday. On-line: Tuesday-Thursday

Monday May 15: **Face to face meeting** to establish expectations for the course, review requirements, introduce the on-line components, discuss the main concepts we will cover in the course.

Tuesday-Thursday: on-line exploration of the theme, “Good Intentions & Unintended Consequences: common motivations and pitfalls of international volunteerism”

Tuesday May 16: Unit 1 “What might be wrong with international volunteering?”

Wednesday May 17: Unit 2 “How do efforts to ‘help the poor’ have unintended consequences?”

Thursday May 18: Unit 3 “Why is ‘raising critical consciousness’ a necessary supplement to good intentions?”

Friday May 18: **Face to face meeting** to discuss student reactions to the first three units and to discuss the logistics of the experience abroad and review the checklist of pre-departure preparations. (Logistics appears as Unit 7 in the on-line course).

Week of May 22:

On line: Monday-Thursday. Face to Face: Friday

Monday-Wednesday: on-line exploration of the theme “Confront Your Context: Where are we and how did we get here? Thursday: on-line exploration of the capstone project.

Monday May 22: Unit 4 “How are ‘progress’ and inequality related, and where do you fit in?”

Tuesday May 23: Unit 5 “What are the roles of the public, private, and third sectors within the narrative of ‘progress’ and inequality?”

Wednesday May 24: Unit 6 “What is environmental inequality, and how is it relevant to you and your field position?”

Thursday May 25: Unit 11 “Your Capstone Projects: Inspiration and Clarification”

Friday May 26: **Face to face meeting** to discuss student reactions to the first three units and to discuss the capstone project requirements, expectations, design, execution, and deadlines

Week of May 29:

Monday May 29: Memorial Day, no class

On line: Tuesday-Thursday. Face to Face: Friday

Monday-Wednesday: on-line exploration of the theme “Explore Deeply: Reflection, Dialogue, Action.” Thursday: on-line review of “Scenario, Tips, Logistics”

Tuesday May 30: Unit 8 “What does it mean to understand another ‘culture’?”

Wed May 31: Unit 9 “What does it mean to ‘engage a community’?”

Thursday June 1: Unit 10 “How, to whom, and for what purpose will you tell ‘your story’—before, during, and after your field position?”

Friday June 2: **Face to face meeting** to discuss student reactions to the third set of units and to discuss Unit 12 “Scenarios, Tips, Logistics: Expecting the Unexpected”