



# **NIU-HC Global Internship and Leadership Development Program**

**On-Campus Component:  
April 3 – May 12, 2017**

**Mexico Internship Component:  
May 15 - June 12, 2017**

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU College of Business and the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning.

**PROGRAM DATES:** The program will officially begin on Monday, April 3, 2017 on the NIU campus with a 1-credit hour pre-departure course to be held from April 3 – May 12. The internship component in Mexico will begin on May 15 and will end on Friday, June 12, 2017. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements. They should work with Human Connections to plan for a departure date of May 15 with internship to run through Friday, June 12 for a total of 4-weeks. This includes the 3-week-120 hour total internship and 1-week leadership development training.

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS:** Renique Kersh, 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 in partnership with Dennis Barsema, Instructor, Department of Management.

Renique Kersh, Ph.D., 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.

Dennis Barsema is a leader in the for-profit corporate world, with an impressive list of accomplishments in the private sector. He has subsequently applied his considerable entrepreneurial abilities and personal resources to the budding area of social entrepreneurship and is the visionary behind the development of this area of study at NIU Business. Additionally, Barsema transformed the face and culture of NIU's College of Business when he funded the creation of its world-class academic facility.

**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 thoughtfully consider and begin to understand the needs and capacity of diverse global communities.
- Gain leadership and professional skills through engagement in their internship and through workshops with local leaders.

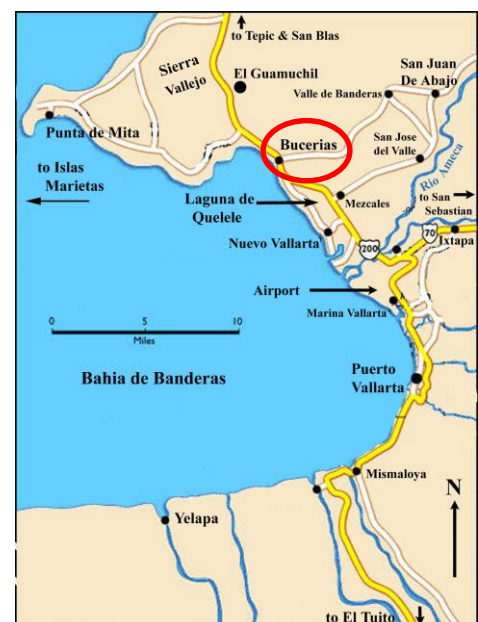
**Academic credit.** The NIU-Human Connections Global Internship and Leadership Development Program will engage students in a 1-credit hour hybrid NIU course where students will complete an online curriculum in addition to engaging in thoughtful discussion and preparatory exercises before beginning their internship. For the internship and professional development component of the program in Mexico, students will engage in an NIU-HC internship and leadership development experience in Bucerias and the Riviera Nayarit, Mexico. Upon completion of the internship experience, students will be expected to present a poster as a final capstone.

**Structure to maximize impact.** The NIU-Human Connections Global Internship and Leadership Development Program culminates with the completion of a collaborative, creative, community-based poster, which will be presented by students at the Community Engagement Showcase or in another designated showcase depending upon student's degree completion date.

**PROGRAM SITES:** Bucerias and Mexico's Riviera Nayarit.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The NIU-Human Connections (NIU-HC) Global Internships are led by Human Connections (HC) Executive Director, Elly Rohrer, as well as other HC staff members, in collaboration with local staff and guest speakers. HC staff has conducted more than a dozen student programs in Bucerias, a small beach town just north of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. These programs have involved students from Tufts, Harvard, Yale, Berkeley, MIT, NYU, and many more. Programs are capped at 14 interns and, given the intimate nature of our work and housing, interns tend to become close friends who stay in touch for years to come.

This Summer Internship is an immersive cultural and professional development experience ideal for those seriously interested in the social sector. Students are treated as a part of a small but inventive team, and are entrusted with a great deal of responsibility and choice. NIU-HC wants students to think critically about community and economic development. When working to help those in need, students must first understand who they are, what their goals are, and why. Through projects,



personal interaction, and meetings with social entrepreneurs in western Mexico, this internship gives students the analytical tools necessary to tackle these questions. It also provides them with experience that will help them make decisions about their own future in the social sector.

**PROGRAM AUDIENCE:** Space is limited. Qualified applicants will be interviewed the week of February 15. Decisions on acceptance into the program will be made that week. The program is open to undergraduate students currently enrolled at NIU. All majors are welcome. NIU-HC internships are focused on the following areas: *Education and Outreach, Business Innovation, Marketing and Research and Non-Profit Management*.

**INSTRUCTION METHOD:** The 1-credit hour course will be structured as a hybrid course with face-to-face meetings occurring on NIU's campus and the rest of the pre-departure course will be online. The course will be taught by Dr. Renique Kersh or another designated faculty/staff. The face-to-face meetings will include critical reflection, presentations about the local and surrounding communities of Mexico's Riviera Nayarit, 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 internship experience which will be presented to the larger campus community and will be shared with the Human Connections staff. The first three weeks following the NIU on-campus course, students will engage in an NIU-HC internship experience. The final week of the experience will include a leadership development retreat, which will include skill development, interaction with local leaders and critical reflection.

**PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT:** For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will be registered during the Summer 2017 session for the following courses.

<b>INTL 201: Study Abroad Programs - NIU Human Connections Global Internship and Leadership Program</b>	
	<b>1 semester hour</b>
<b>Description:</b> The 1-credit 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 face-to-face meetings will include critical reflection, presentations about the local and surrounding communities of Mexico's Riviera Nayarit, engaged discussion around topics like voluntourism, community needs, community-based participatory research and service and global scholarship.	
<b>AND</b>	
<b>Internship</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Students will engage in an NIU-HC internship and leadership development experience in Bucerias and the Riviera Nayarit, Mexico. Upon completion of the internship experience, students will be expected to present a poster as a final capstone	
<b>Procedure:</b> 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 and leadership development experience.

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 or graduate admission and 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, 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. Non-NIU students will be expected to submit a signature verification form and a 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](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).

**\$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 1, 2017.

**ACCOMMODATIONS, AIRFARE AND MEALS:** Students will stay in comfortable and safe accommodations in Bucerias, which will include kitchen access, double occupancy rooms, and free internet. In addition, they will be located within convenient distance to grocery stores, restaurants, cafe, and the town plaza. During their last week in Mexico, students will relocate to the town of San Pancho, and will stay in hostel-style accommodations inside of the Entreamigos community center. Students will be provided with 12 group meals throughout the program.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements. Airfare can range from \$300-\$600.

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 1, 2017 application deadline.
- 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 must have a passport in order to participate in this seminar. *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. Information on acquiring a passport is available at the U.S. State Department's Website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>. U.S. passport holders do not need special visas for this program. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel in Mexico **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**



**PASSPORT 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 in case of a missing or stolen passport.



**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS:** Students will need to work with the Human Connections 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.



**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) NIU undergraduate credit
- 2) International Student I.D. Card (ISIC)
- 3) Housing and 12 group meals

**PROGRAM COST: \$3,535\***

\*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-HC Internship and Leadership Development Program is not tax-deductible.

#### **ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:**

- Airfare
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$140, including 2 passport pictures).
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders.
- 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](mailto:tcondon1@niu.edu) for more information.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after February 1, 2017 will not be refunded the \$200 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is 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 1, 2017 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded 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; **and**
- 3) The program still has the minimum number of participants required to operate.

**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 the country where NIU-HC internship has 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.

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



### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Is the HC/NIU Global Internship and Leadership Development Program a paid internship? No, there is a cost associated with the internship program, which covers your housing, most of your food and several excursions for the trip. You will need to cover your own airfare.
2. Do I have to take the INTL 201 pre-departure course and the 3 hour internship course? Yes, both courses are required. The INTL 201 course is the pre-program course that takes place from April 3 – May 12. It's an online course that will help prepare you for your internship. The 3 hour internship course takes place from May 15 – June 12. There are two enrollment options for the 3 hour internship course. You can choose to register for INTL 301 with Dr. Renique Kersh as the instructor of record, or you can choose to be enrolled in an internship course within your academic program. Both options require you and the course instructor of record to complete the "Internship Credit Approval Form." The Study Abroad Office will register you for both courses. The total credits for this program equal 4 credits.
3. What can I expect from the internship? The Human Connections team will provide you with an experience based on your skills, interest and expertise, however the majority of the internship will be for students interested in non-profit management, business, education, and outreach and marketing. The final week of the program will involve a leadership development program at Entre'amigos, a community center in San Pancho, Mexico.
4. Is funding available for this experience? Applicants may apply for the Study Abroad Travel Grant (application deadline: April 15, 2017) as well as any summer financial aid and/or loans. If you are a student in the College of Business, travel funds are available through the college. If you are a student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, you are welcome to apply for funding through the Student Engagement Fund (application deadline: March 15, 2017).
5. What about safety concerns? Bucerias and San Pancho, Mexico are located near Puerto Vallarta. Both are safe destinations. NIU follows the U. S. Department of State recommendations very closely and will not send students to any destinations that have been deemed unsafe.
6. What are the program dates? The pre-departure course (INTL 201) will begin in early April and will be held fully online. The actual internship in Mexico will run from May 15-June 12.
7. What if I would like to stay in Mexico beyond June 12? You are welcome to stay beyond June 12, however, you will no longer be participating in the NIU program and should plan prepare your own accommodations.

## NIU-Human Connections Global Internship and Leadership Development Program

Eight NIU students – **Timi Adebjoe, Luke Arrington, Raven Bryant, Hopkins, Yannick Koua, Dexter Matthews, Janel Pilate and Yuije Sansone** – traveled in January of 2016 to San Pancho, Mexico and began a journey that now becomes their legacy.

While in San Pancho, the students were hosted by an organization called Entre Amigos where they not only learned about themselves, but they learned about the tenacity and commitment of the people of San Pancho. For many of the students, the trip provided their first excursion outside the United States. And, although the



*“Going to Mexico taught me that there is so much more to life than what we see right outside of our front doors in the states. Though we may not be able to see the entire world in just one lifetime, I encourage every person in this world to travel and see as much as possible. If not for you, do it so you can share the wisdom gained from such experiences with others who may never have the chance to see a world outside of their own.”*

— Randiss Hopkins

eight originally hailed from inner-city Chicago, their journey to Mexico offered an eye-opening look at what lies just beyond the border.

Following this experience, Randiss Hopkins, then traveled to Bucerias, Mexico where he interned for Human Connections, a non-profit organization that connects local people with international audiences. Both experiences were life-changing and when he returned to the United States, he and several other students made it their mission to ensure that other NIU students would have an opportunity to engage in a similar experience. From here, The NIU-Human Connections Global Internship and Leadership Development Program was born and represents

their legacy and desire to provide a cost-effective avenue whereby NIU students can gain practical work experience and critical leadership skills. Through this four week program, students will engage in three weeks of internship with Human Connections in Bucerias and one week of leadership development and civic engagement with Entre Amigos in San Pancho.

[Source: NIU Newsroom](#)

## Course Syllabus

**INTL 201**  
**NIU-HC Global Internship and Leadership**  
**Development Program Pre-Departure Course**

**Dr. Renique Kersh and Dennis Barsema**  
**Counseling, Adult and Higher Education/Management**

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

- [The saddest thing in the world is not poverty; it's loss of dignity](#), Article in The Guardian
- [The Voluntourist's Dilemma](#), Article in The New York Times
- "I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala" by Rigoberta Menchu
- [TED Talk: "The way we think about charity is dead wrong"](#), Dan Pallotta
- [TED Talk: "The danger of a single story"](#), Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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

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

- History, Economy and Social Issues in Bucerias
- Student Developed Learning Outcomes for Internship Experience and Reflection on Learning/HC staff reflections on student learning
- Impact Statement
  - How has this experience impacted your understanding of how you fit into the global society?
  - How did your work impact (e.g., financially, economically, socially) the local community?
  - What mis-perceptions, biases or misunderstandings did you have that were debunked after your experience?
  - How did this experience impact your long-term goals (i.e., what's next?)

**The deadline for submission of report/project, etc. is (date):**

Final Capstone will be due on June 12, 2017

**Course Schedule:**

Week of April 3: Checklist: "Things to Do Before you Depart"  
Week of April 10: Cultural Understanding and Competency

Week of April 17: Voluntourism and Civic Engagement Gone Wrong  
Week of April 24: History, Economy and Society  
Week of May 1: Making the Most of Your Internship Experience  
Week of May 8: Final Preparation

Leadership Development Program to be determined.