



Health Studies in Belize

June 14 – 28, 2015

Pre-Departure On-Campus Meetings:
April 17 and May 1, 2015
DuSable 159

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU College of Health and Human Sciences and the School of Allied and Health Professions and Communicative Disorders.

PROGRAM DATES: The program will officially begin on April 17, 2015 at NIU with introductory sessions preparing the participants for travel to Belize and familiarizing them with cultural issues, the health care system, and format of the program. Prior to the first meeting of the group, email communication to finalize the group of students participating will take place. The overseas component of the program will officially begin with departure from U.S. on Sunday, June 14, 2015 and will end on Sunday, June 28, 2015.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Jeanne Isabel, Program Director and Associate Professor of Clinical Laboratory Science in the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders of NIU's College of Health and Human Sciences will serve as the course instructor. Professor Isabel has taught courses in Medical Laboratory Sciences for the past 24 years and has lived and/or consulted in Somalia, Kenya, Swaziland, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Turkey, Ukraine, Bangladesh and most recently Belize. She was a member of an International Biomedical Laboratory Science Council for six years.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES:

This program offered by the College of Health and Humans Sciences, is a global opportunity for students to experience firsthand the growing importance of international health and is open to anyone with an interest in this area. Students will have an opportunity to provide healthcare services and education to a local village as well as learn about the health care issues in Belize.

The goals of this course include:

1. Provide health services to a local village.
2. Gain insight to the culture of Belize through host families
3. Glimpse into the Garifuna culture
4. Learn about natural healing and Herbal medicine used in Belize
5. Connect with students from other disciplines.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS: The program will consist of two components. The **on-campus** component will consist of mandatory meetings to be held on April 17 and May 1, 2015 to prepare students for the program in Belize. Students will be asked to develop a professional poster in English or Spanish that can be used to give a short presentation to the service village. Preparation of a presentation for peers or an NIU course may also be an option.

The **overseas component** will take place from June 14 to 28, 2015 and will consist of host family accommodation, cultural immersion, healthcare facility placement during the week and, and weekend activities highlighting a service activity and adventures available in Belize.

TRAVEL SITE: Belize lies on the eastern coastline of Central America, bordered on the north by Mexico, on the west and south by Guatemala, and on the east by the Caribbean Sea. The University of Belize is the only public university in the Central American nation of Belize, where English is the national language and medium of instruction. The University's mission is to "be a national, autonomous and multi-location institution committed to excellence in higher education, research and service for national development." According to their website the University "provides relevant, affordable and accessible educational and training programs that address national needs based on principles of academic freedom, equity, transparency, merit and accountability." It has a student population of nearly 2,700 and already has international linkages with 45 foreign institutions.



As a bit of background, Spanish invaders battled 19 years to conquer the Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula. Unlike the Aztecs in central Mexico who succumbed to Cortez in less than two years, the Mayans were not easily overtaken. But by 1700, a once robust Maya population had fallen to 150,000 due to disease, displacement and famine. As peace reclaimed the area, however, the Yucatan Peninsula's combined population of Maya, Mestizo and Spanish ballooned to a whopping 580,000 by 1845.

Native English speakers traveling to Belize will have no problem communicating, as the official language is English. Spanish is also widely spoken, especially in the North and West of Belize. Most Belizeans can understand Creole, which is a type of Pidgin English.



PROGRAM AUDIENCE: This study abroad program is intended for NIU students in undergraduate or graduate studies in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Students from other colleges are welcome to apply. This program fulfills the growing importance of student awareness of international health and is open to anyone with an interest in health careers. Students will have an opportunity to learn firsthand about the health care system and health issues in Belize.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the program are for participating students to:

- Keep a journal of daily event.
- Produce an educational poster to be given to the service village.
- Interact with a discipline specific professional from Belize
- Provide expertise in a service project in a village
- Describe alternative health care in Belize.
- Network with students from different backgrounds.

INSTRUCTION METHOD: The course will include a writing assignment and preparation of a poster and possible group presentation. Students will be expected to attend the preparatory sessions at NIU and will participate in all activities during the overseas program.

American with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 (V) or drc@niu.edu. Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations.

Student Assessment

Assessments: Participants will complete the following before, during, and after the program:

a. Preparation meetings before the program (5%)

Reading assignments will serve as preparation for the overseas component and will be distributed at the preliminary meeting. The student will identify preparations needed to travel to Belize and identify a healthcare topic of interest related to tropical medicine.

b. Completion of the program activities (50%)

Participants will be required to complete all the program activities, unless they have a medical condition that would prevent the participation. Students will interact with the health professional to which he/she is assigned during the professional week.

c. Daily journal (10%)

All participants will complete a daily journal during their travel experience with text and photos.

d. Presentation (15%)

Poster presentations will be prepared to be given during the village service project. A presentation may also be prepared for a course or professional meeting.

e. Written Assignment (10%)

Complete a paper relating your discoveries during this experience and what you learned about your selected health care discipline.

f. Professional conduct (10%)

Participants are expected to respect the program director's decisions on program activities and conduct themselves professionally before, during, and after the program towards peers, collaborators, and people they meet in general. As there are cultural differences that not all participants may be aware of, no deduction will be exercised if a participant(s) readily modifies his/her conduct after being reminded.

Grading Policy:

A = 93-100%	C+ = 77 – 79.99%
A- = 90 – 92.99%	C = 70 – 76.99%
B+ = 87 – 89.99%	D = 60.0-69.9%
B = 83 – 86.99%	F = <59.99%
B- = 80 – 82.99%	

All Program Requirements Must Be Completed by October 1, 2015.

Academic Integrity: Northern Illinois University is a learning community. Consistent with the mission and purpose the University seeks to foster within its whole community, it is expected that academic honesty and integrity guide the actions of all its members. It is the responsibility of every person in the academic community – faculty members, students and administrators – to ensure that academic dishonesty is not tolerated. See plagiarism policy for additional information. <http://www.engl.niu.edu/composition/guidelines/plag.shtml>

INSTRUCTION METHOD: Professor Jeanne Isabel will serve as instructor for the course. The course will include writing assignments and preparation for a group presentation. Students will be expected to attend the preparatory session at NIU and will participate in all activities during the overseas program.

Pre-travel assignments: Reading assignments will serve as preparation for the overseas component and will be distributed at the preliminary meeting.

The student will:

1. Identify preparations needed to travel to Belize.
2. Identify a healthcare topic of interest related to health issues in Belize.
3. Develop a professional poster to give to the service village.

Post-travel assignment: Submission of written assignment highlighting journal entries.

Undergraduate Course Requirements:

1. Complete a daily journal of their travel experiences.
2. Complete an essay on the travel experience and how it relates to the selected health care topic.
3. Participate in preparation of a poster and possible presentation to be given at a designated time.

Graduate Course Requirements:

1. Complete a daily journal of their travel experiences.
2. Present poster to community members of the service village.
3. Prepare a presentation on selected health care issues in Belize to be held in a public forum.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 3 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit. Students will be enrolled during the summer 2015 session. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate or graduate level admission and course requirements.**

HONORS CREDIT: Qualified students may also elect to receive Honors credit for any study abroad course(s) with the approval of the NIU faculty or instructor responsible for the course. For more information please contact the University Honors Office.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT**AHCD 498 Tutorial in Allied Health and Communicative Disorders 3 semester hours**

Description: Directed individual study and research in special areas of allied health and communicative disorders. Speech Language Pathology/Audiology, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and Pre-physical Therapy majors may repeat to a maximum of 6 semester hours. Rehabilitation Services majors and Deafness Rehabilitation minors may repeat to a maximum of 9 semester hours with advisor approval. Available for concurrent enrollment. S/U grading may be used.

Pre-requisite: Consent of school.

For non-NIU students, applications will be reviewed by the Department Chair.

GRADUATE CREDIT**AHCD 698 Directed Individual Study 3 semester hours**

Description: Independent pursuit of advanced problems in communicative disorders of special concern to qualified graduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 semester hours, but only 6 semester hours may be applied to the master's degree in communicative disorders. S/U grading may be used.

Pre-requisite: Consent of school.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students who meet the NIU general admission requirements, and who are interested in International Health studies. Applicants must meet College of Health and Human Sciences GPA requirements. Graduate level students must also meet NIU Graduate School admission and GPA requirements. Graduate students who are not currently enrolled in the NIU Graduate School will be admitted as student-at-large.

Students must be in good academic standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic 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., the Graduate School, 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.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL) within NIU's Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the 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. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled, nor are previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the Study Abroad Office before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the program. (Student issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.)

APPLICATION: Click [Health Studies in Belize](#) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for "Belize" or the *Health Studies in Belize* program) 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.

\$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: March 13, 2015

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: Participants will reside in hotel and host family residences in rooms with single or twin beds and will be provided breakfast and dinner meals daily throughout the period of residency. Lunch meals will be decided on as a group.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Airfare is not included in the program cost. Information regarding flight numbers, dates and times will be provided by Professor Isabel so that students can book their ticket on the same flight if they so choose. Travel insurance is **STRONGLY** recommended.

For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to check-out additional airfare sites on the Internet such as STA Travel.

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

- a. After the March 13 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**)

LAND TRANSPORTATION: Program-related travel will be provided as part of the NIU program cost.

PASSPORT: IMPORTANT! All participants are required to **possess** a valid passport by December 13, 2014. *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: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html>. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**



VISA: A visa is not required for Belize.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD (ISIC): The ISIC is provided as part of the program cost. The International Student I.D. card can, among other things, provide discounts on international airfare. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



More importantly, 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.

PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS: Applicants are required to submit two passport photos. You may have your passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$3.00 for the first photo and \$2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. 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.



HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: Contact the NIU University Health Service *at least eight weeks* before your program to allow time for immunizations to take effect. The NIU University Health Service can advise students on what immunizations are required and can administer most immunizations. Most immunizations require a fee. Consult the Travel Clinic several months before you travel. Some vaccines need to be given over a period of months, so participants in this program must **START EARLY!**

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

- 1) Hotel accommodations and some meals while the group is in Belize.
- 2) Program-related land transportation in Belize.
- 3) Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule.
- 4) NIU tuition for undergraduate or graduate credit.
- 5) NIU major medical insurance.
- 6) International Student I.D. Card.

PROGRAM COST: \$3,760

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.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS: Several costs are not included in the program cost that is cited above. Other expenses that will be incurred by the participants include:

- Round-trip airfare
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$130, including passport photos)
- \$40 Undergraduate application fee (**Non-NIU** undergraduate students only)
- Lunch and meals during free time pursuits
- Entrance fees for free-time pursuits
- Purchases of a personal nature

The amount of spending money recommended by past participants ranges from \$50-\$150 per day, depending on an individual's spending habits.

NIU UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE (Applies to Non-NIU students only):

There is a \$40 non-refundable Undergraduate Application fee for students applying to NIU for the first time. If you are currently enrolled at NIU as a degree-seeking undergraduate student, you are not required to submit this payment.

If you are applying to NIU for the first time you will be provided with a link that will guide you to the online NIU Undergraduate Application. In that online application you will be asked to pay the \$40 application fee by credit card or check.

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 privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply. Please contact the International Programs Business Office at Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530 for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing from the program after March 13, 2015 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 or paid 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 March 13, 2015 for medical reasons, funds obligated or paid 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.

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 Belize, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Belize, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

TENTATIVE DAILY SCHEDULE

Health Studies in Belize June 14 - 28, 2015
Pre-Program Meetings on Campus: April 17 and May 1
Hotel Princess 1 night, Caye Caulker 1 night, Belmopan 10 nights,
Palacio retreat 1 night, Hopkins 1 night

Date	Location/ Overnight	Description of events
Feb - March	Study Abroad Office Website	Apply online.
April 17	DU 159	Identify travel plans, confirm itinerary, answer questions, and discuss assignments.
May 1	DU 159	Readiness for the program.
<i>June 14 Sunday hosts</i>	Chicago/Belize City/Belmopan	Meet at airport. Arrive Belize City, travel to Belmopan. Bus to Belmopan. Meet host families and settle in. (<i>how much luggage?</i>)
<i>June 15 Monday hosts</i>	Belmopan	UB Campus Visit /Orientation at UB- RLC Conference Room AM: Interaction with science students and spend some time in the classroom PM: Students will meet with placement supervisors and discuss plans for Tues, Wed , Thurs and Monday
<i>June 16 Tuesday hosts</i>	Belmopan	<i>Experience at placement sites and service learning</i>
<i>June 17 Wednesday hosts</i>	Belmopan	<i>Experience at placement sites and service learning</i> Stop at Belize Zoo (PM)
<i>June 18 Thursday hosts</i>	Belmopan	<i>Experience at placement sites and service learning</i> <i>Marla's house of Hope</i>
<i>June 19 Friday hosts</i>	Belmopan	<i>Cave tubing at caves branch: river cave expedition</i>
<i>June 20 & 21, Saturday Retreat Sunday hosts</i>	Palacio retreat overnight Sat	Multicultural Herbal Medicine Fair at Palacios Retreat Health screening by NIU team for St Margaret's village Sleep Saturday night at Palacios Bunk room. PM Camp Fire with live drumming and dancing <i>Garifuna Cultural immersion.</i> Return from Palacios Sunday at 3:00 pm
<i>June 22 Monday hosts</i>	Belmopan	<i>Experience at placement sites and service learning</i>
<i>June 23 Tuesday Hopkins</i>	Belmopan to Hopkins	<i>Travel to Hopkins , visit Southern Regional Hospital</i> <i>- Led by UB students</i> <i>Overnight at Hopkins</i>

June 24 Wednesday <i>hosts</i>	Belmopan	<i>Travel to Belmopan</i> PM; Visit US Embassy, Ministry of Health, Children's Home (Marlas House of Hope)
June 25 Thursday <i>hosts</i>	Belmopan	Visit La Loma Luz Hospital Visit Xunantunich Maya Ruins 8:00 pm Good bye party with students, home stays, supervisors, UB students and friends
June 26 Friday <i>Caye Caulker</i>	Depart Belmopan to Belize City	Belize City: Karl Huessner Hospital <i>Transport to Caye Caulker and overnight</i>
June 27 Saturday <i>Princess hotel</i>	Caye Caulker	Snorkeling for the day. Back to Princess Hotel
June 28 Sunday	Belize City/Chicago	Depart Belize City, Arrive Chicago (ORD) <i>Shuttle to airport</i>

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