The Dragons Semester Experience

authentic cross-cultural programs

Is this for YOU?:

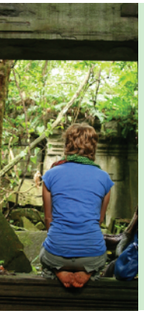
Whether taking time off to reframe ones options; deferring college to find inspiration, nurture one's creative self, or develop an understanding of the breadth and magnificence of the planet's cultures and natural spaces; or looking for an accredited program that combines a well-tuned curriculum with hands-on experiential learning, Dragons' semester programs offer students ages 17-22 unparalleled opportunities to experience a strikingly different reality and to develop skills to engage internationally and affect positive change.

Your Best Gap Year Choice, Your Best Accredited Semester Choice:

Each group of 12 participants is led by three dynamic, inspiring and experienced field guides, each of whom has extensive in-country experience and a background that supports the students' close inspection of the countries in which they engage.

Design: A Holistic Program

Over 13 weeks we engage the whole student and facilitate valuable skills acquisition, through nine distinct experiential hands-on program components:



- Rugged Travel
- Home-Stay: urban and rural
- Wilderness Exploration
- Service Learning
- Development Issues
- Independent Study Projects and Internships
- Language Acquisition
- Introduction to the Country's Religious Traditions
- Contemporary Issues Curriculum

Style: Dragons stewards self-starting, self-realized leadership in a global context by following a core curriculum that appropriately paces students' independence and decision-making throughout the course.

When it's over, be prepared:

After a Dragons Semester, be ready for the next step: be prepared to use your understanding of development issues, your ability to move fluidly between cultures, your ability to speak another language, your empathy and the knowledge and wisdom gained through intimate connections with home-stay families and ISP mentors, your knowledge of human rights issues, your ability to approach global conflict and peace issues with an informed perspective, and your knowledge of the common humanity and shared aspirations of all people. Be prepared to see the world in a more direct light. Be prepared to wholly engage in the world as you never have before.

www.**wheretherebedragons**.com

PROGRAM OFFERINGS:

Dates:
Spring : February 9 – May 12
Fall : September 6 – December 8

China: South of the Clouds

Southwest China and its expansive tapestry of cultures

A language-intensive program, exploring modern China's development while sourcing traditional culture through exploration of remote and seldom visited corners of the Middle Kingdom.
Optional college credit available.

Visions of India

Varanasi, the Ganges River and other sacred places

Discover the arts of India and the country's myriad spiritual practices while living in the ancient "City of Light."
Optional college credit available.

Himalayan Studies

culture, religion, and sustainable development

From Kathmandu to nomadic encampments of the Tibetan Plateau, discover centuries-old traditions in the recesses of the Himalayas.
Optional college credit available.

Andes & Amazon

cultural, political & ecological diversity in Bolivia and southern Peru

Disappear off the map's edge and experience dramatic extremes in geography and human condition, from travels through remote rainforest to extended high-alpine treks.
Optional college credit available.

The Rhythm of West Africa

traditional arts, modern development, and ritual in Senegal and Guinea

Share in the daily life of remote villages while participating in aid and development projects.

Life Along the Mekong

socio-cultural and environmental impacts of development along the greatest river in Southeast Asia

From its headwaters in the Tibetan Plateau to Tonle Sap Lake, experience cultural diversity, exceptional natural beauty, and unimaginable hospitality while traveling the length of the Mekong.

Roots of Rebellion in Central America

land use, grass roots organizing, and social justice along the intercontinental land bridge

Experience common cultural threads and distinctive national identities as we explore Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Indonesia

Bali, Sulawesi and the Maluku Archipelago

Cultural immersion among the indigenous communities of Indonesia's outer islands, exploring topics in environmental conservation and cultural survival in the presence of development pressures and climate change.

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A FULL YEAR WITH DRAGONS

Expeditionary Internships: The Next Step

offered every spring

Dragons "Expeditionary Internships" are customized, cross cultural work-study programs that emphasize supported independence while providing opportunities for collaboration with working professionals. aid and development groups, social workers and artists to increase knowledge, develop skills and clarify values.

Open to groups of three to five Dragons alumni, these programs offer the next level of independence, immersion and cross-cultural experience. Students work alongside a Dragons instructor throughout their semester to prepare for and execute a three month internship with cutting-edge community-based organizations and individuals. Whether public health, youth art groups, environmental conservation, micro-lending, or teaching, students will live in a local home-stay, study language, and gain invaluable skills and experience in working and living abroad. While advanced cultural fluency, language skills, and technical knowledge within the field of interest are important goals, the pursuit of global citizenship, leadership and skill building, and self exploration drive the experience.

Internship participants embark on a personalized and challenging 15 week itinerary that includes a two-week intensive training program, a three-day track design workshop enabling students to co-author their individual curriculum, a three month internship phase, and a final transference session at the program's conclusion. Throughout the program, students are prompted to embark on periodic field-visits, treks, community stays and an ongoing exploration of local culture, landscape, and contemporary development issues. Programs are offered in regions where semester programs are present. Available to any student who has completed a prior Dragons program. Call or visit our web site today for more information.