

Name:

Date:



Proposal for an Alternative Cross Cultural

Deadline:

March 15 for the following Summer term

Lancaster Theological Seminary has a rich 50 year history of sponsoring seminar abroad/cross cultural immersion. These trips have proven their value as theological formation experiences and are required to complete the Master of Divinity degree.

While global theological education develops spiritual leaders' awareness and involvement in global issues, Lancaster Seminary understands that some students will not be able to participate in the regularly scheduled MS400S class and travel planned for their year. In these cases the student is permitted to propose an alternative.

This alternative should not involve a mission trip, service/work or tourism. As part of the M.Div requirement this study trip must address the cross cultural learning objectives and involve a two-week immersion experience. For more information please refer to the current Lancaster Theological Seminary Student Handbook.

Cross Cultural Learning Objectives are:

- **To identify current major life values and issues in the life of the people and of the church in a situation that is quite different from one's own.**
- **To describe some of the daily life experiences and struggles of these people and the church in respect of these values and issues, including their creativity as well as their means to cope.**
- **To describe the church's understanding of its nature, mission and ministry with these people in this place.**
- **To discover some of the theological reflection and insights which this body of Christians has to contribute to the ongoing development of Christian tradition.**
- **To discover and critique some of one's own largely-unconscious and operating theological, cultural, ethnic, racial and gender biases and other historical conditioning.**
- **To forecast how the international cross-cultural experience may affect one's own future spiritual and vocational development, including the conduct of one's ministry.**

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II Involvement:

- A minimum of 2 weeks immersion experience. It does not need to be overseas as long as the proposal presents convincing evidence that the culture involved is totally different/foreign to that of the student.

Please describe:

- The student is encouraged to send a Reflections Journal entry of their experiences every other day, including photos if possible. Comment, if you wish, upon your plans for journaling.

III Integration:

- The student will take part in a presentation, with the students who have taken MS400S that year, to the seminary community in the Fall that follows the cross cultural experience.
- The student will create a presentation for their own church, or related groups.
- All Lancaster Seminary students are required to submit an original Reflection Paper to the Cross Cultural Advisor. Questions and guidelines will be provided before the student departs. The paper will be 10-12 pages long, due within 6 weeks of returning, regardless of whether the course is credit or non-credit.

Process:

- The student will request the alternative, using this form, to their Academic Advisor and to the Educational Specialist. (It may be submitted electronically.) Once approved by the Advisor, the proposal will be forwarded to the Academic Dean for final approval. Students will need to allow one to two weeks for the final response.
- After approval the student must register in the appropriate course registration period.
 - The student will ask the Registrar what course number they should use in order to register for their approved alternative cross-cultural experience.