Ignatian Service Immersion Q&As 2019-2020

What am I committing to through ISI?
The Ignatian Service Immersion program is a comprehensive formation and immersion program that spans nearly a full calendar year. While the summer trip is a culminating moment, the formation, preparation, fundraising, community-building, and follow-up reflection are essential components of the overall experience.

The total ISI commitment includes:
- 4 ISI Formation Meetings (2-3 hours each month, including reading/preparation) on three program components: (1) public health/global health theory & praxis, (2) principles and practices of Ignatian spirituality, and (3) immersion “toolkit” covering trip logistics and processes
- 2 trip-specific meetings (2-3 hours each) scheduled by the trip leaders
- 3-4 Essential Topics in Global Health lectures (especially for CCGH Honors)
- Time spent on personal fundraising commitment
- Participation in student-led fundraisers throughout Spring 2020 (5-10 hours total)
- Appointment with Travel Clinic or PCP
- Reflection & Evaluation: “Giving back and making it better”
  - Written reflection project upon return from ISI experience
  - Evaluation: Both written evaluation and face-to-face debriefing sessions upon return
- Fundraising events and preparation of future ISI participants during the 2020-2021 year (2-4 hours)

What costs are involved?
- Trips cost HSC Ministry approximately $2,000-$3,500 per student to cover all expenses (airfare, ground transportation, housing, food, on-site support services, educational materials, supplies and site donations). These expenses are covered through: (1) university support, (2) HSC Ministry fundraising events, with ISI participants serving as volunteers, and (3) a participant fundraising commitment.
- We require each participant to raise between $1,000 and $1,500 in donations, depending on the length of trip you attend. You can collect money from friends, family, and community organizations, or brainstorm your own ways to raise funds. The initial fundraising contribution submitted with your application counts towards this personal fundraising amount. Contributions are made online via the ISI donation website or check, made payable to “Loyola University Chicago.”
- ALL fundraising contributions are non-refundable, including the initial contribution made with application submission. Should you be unable to complete your ISI commitment or trip, your funds will be transferred to the larger ISI fundraising account for future trips.
- ISI participants are expected to contribute to fundraising events through their presence and leadership.
- As a Loyola University policy, you must enroll in the University’s Travel Insurance policy, which will cost an additional, out-of-pocket $45 per month of travel. Enrollment information will be provided.
- For international trips, travel clinic appointments and immunizations can cost an additional, out-of-pocket $200-400, depending on trip location and your health insurance. You are responsible for making this appointment, either through your primary care physician or through Loyola’s Travel Clinic and deciding, together, necessary immunizations for your trip. Visit the CDC Travel website for more information by country and region: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel.
- Cost should not be the primary factor that turns you away from ISI. If expense is an issue, please speak to one of the HSC Ministry staff and submit an application for sponsorship through the ISI Scholarship Fund. A limited number of scholarships are available to students who otherwise would be unable to participate in ISI without financial support.
How does ISI fit into other summer plans?
It is possible to participate in ISI and other summer commitments. However, you must discern wisely to not over-book your summer. While we have 1-week ISI options, for Medical students who have a strong desire to participate in a longer ISI trip and summer research, we encourage you to consider other research opportunities that are equivalent to the Loyola-sponsored research program (STAR). You cannot participate in a two-week or extended (local or international) ISI experience if you also plan to participate in STAR. If you have non-negotiable “black-out” dates in the middle of an ISI trip, please work with Ministry to determine the best option for you.

What are the next steps?
- Visit the ISI website to research more about trip destinations and program goals.
- Think seriously about your ability, enthusiasm, and commitment to all of the ISI goals and expectations.
- Consider your other options & plans: research, family commitments, vacations/graduations/weddings, local service, other professional and personal commitments.
- Talk with family members & friends about your desire to do ISI (especially your parents/spouse).
- Talk with HSC Ministry staff to help sort-out any thoughts or concerns.
- Talk with past students about their experiences and wisdom, and consider attending the Resident panel on summer experiences.
- If interested, complete the ISI online application on or before the deadline, Monday, October 21, including making your initial fundraising contribution: https://hsd.luc.edu/isi/forms-applications/

What is the process for application and acceptance?
A. Applications will be opened online at: http://hsd.luc.edu/isi/forms-applications/. Complete ALL forms. Do not wait until the day of the deadline! The application includes short answer and essay responses, uploading several medical forms and a copy of your passport, and an initial $150 fundraising contribution paid online. (Initial fundraising contributions are non-refundable.)
B. Complete a group interview with Ministry staff. We will contact you about setting up an appointment after the application deadline.
C. Placements will be announced at the end of November, at which time your placement and participation contract will be due.

Visit the ISI Website: https://hsd.luc.edu/isi