

# INDIVIDUALLY ARRANGED CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY PROPOSAL

Culture/Country of Choice: Latin America/Costa Rica

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Program/Church (if applicable): Christian Immersion Spanish Academy [www.cisacostarica.com](http://www.cisacostarica.com)

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Travel Dates/Duration of Study: 3 weeks, May 16 to June 6

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Supervisor/Main Contact: Beverly Liberman (US) April Binnie (Costa Rica)

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Contact Phone Number: 707-433-8234 (Beverly)

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Contact E-mail: [bliberman4@comcast.net](mailto:bliberman4@comcast.net), [infocisa@racsa.co.cr](mailto:infocisa@racsa.co.cr)

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Accommodations (if applicable): Homestays with Costa Rican Host Family

**Description of Activities:**

I plan on going to a Christian Spanish school in Costa Rica for three weeks. During this time I will be studying the Spanish language through learning, conversation, and reading in both the classroom and in the host home. The school provides classes in each of these areas for 5 hours daily which will be very helpful in my development. Full immersion into the language will be difficult at times but much more in-depth with the host family who communicates only in Spanish. Breakfast and dinner will be shared with my host family and lunch will be provided by the school.

I will also have the time to travel around the country on weekend excursions within the Turrialba area through different tours directed by the school. Additional activities include a weekly Tico Food Experience (cooking class), and a weekly Bible Study in Spanish.

Lastly, the school is associated with a Christian Mission, the Voz Que Clama Mission with which I will have the opportunity to participate in tutoring elementary children in English and assisting with clean up projects.

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## 45-HOUR INTERACTION REQUIREMENT:

<u>Daily Itinerary</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Hours</u>
M-F Spanish language instruction (12 days)	9:00 – 3:00 (1 hr break for lunch)	60
Sunday Services: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. (2)		6
Friday Bible Studies: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (3)		3
Host Family Breakfasts/Dinners (20 days)		45+
Weekend Travels		10
Service Project at Mission		10
<b>TOTAL =</b>		<b><u>130+</u> HOURS</b>

Based on your daily itinerary, list the goals you plan to accomplish:

First I plan on improving my understanding of and ability to speak the Spanish language. After three weeks of being separated from my English speaking peers and submerged in Spanish culture, I have no doubt I will be able to accomplish this. As a Business major, my ability to speak a second language will help me stand out above others when applying for future jobs.

Second, I want to experience a different culture first-hand. The trip will help me to see how other people live in the world through their language, clothes, customs, food, and traditions. I especially want to learn how Costa Ricans practice their Christianity and what I can learn from those differences.

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Explain how you believe this experience will fulfill the academic objectives of the cross-cultural requirement:

This experience will supply information and insight into various social, political and cultural aspects of Hispanic culture that I have not previously had.

- Until now, I have watched Cleveland's local Hispanic community from a distance except for a few students that I have tutored. How will this experience correct, expand and create my perspectives on their socio-economic, political, cultural situation? How will the information that I gain from this experience guide my career choices or my relational choices as someone who can choose to cross the cultural lines as a Christian who is required to see all people through the lens of Biblical truth?
- With the opportunities I have as a citizen of the U.S. and will have as a college graduate, there are numerous ways that I can be a resource for Hispanics in Cleveland. How will this experience further my understanding of their needs and my ability to meet those needs? How will this experience teach me balance in this area?
- I have never been in Hispanic homes for any significant amount of time. I will be fully immersed in a Costa Rican host home for three weeks as part of my intensive language and culture study.