Presenters

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History, Mission, & Learning Outcomes

- Started in 1982 by UofM faculty
- Mission (in part): “...the preparation of culturally sensitive individuals who are committed to the concepts of justice and sustainable development for all societies in our interdependent world.”
- Learning Outcomes
  - Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
  - Cultivate awareness of development issues in diverse communities
  - Translate insights on social justice and sustainable development into long-term perspectives
  - Strengthen communication skills
  - Gain cross-cultural competencies
Where is MSID (Minnesota Studies in International Development)?

- Ecuador—based in Quito
  - 4 semesters of Spanish required
- Senegal—based in Dakar
  - 4 semesters of French required
  - Wolof language offered
- Thailand—based in Chiang Mai
  - English curriculum
  - Thai language offered
Program & Academic Overview

Classroom Phase:
- Language
- Historical & Political Context
- International Development

Internship/Research Phase:
- Internship course
- Research course
Intensive Language Pre-Session

- Offered only in Ecuador and Senegal
- Can be a standalone option or a pre-session
- Approximately three weeks prior to the start of the semester
- Ecuador: 4th- and 5th-semester Spanish
- Senegal: 4th-, 5th-, 6th-, or 7th-semester French
Language Courses

- 4-credit course
- Ecuador: advanced Spanish
- Senegal: advanced French or beginning Wolof
- Thailand: beginning to intermediate Thai
Historical & Political Context

- 4-credit course
- Critical examination of the country’s history, society, and politics, to give context to the location
- Field visits, lectures, and guest speakers help illuminate different facets of society
International Development

- 4-credit course
- All students learn key aspects of development theory
- Students choose one development theme to focus on:
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Health
  - Human Rights
  - Sustainability
Ecuador

Entrepreneurship
- Social Entrepreneurship & Microfinance

Health
- Public Health & Traditional Andean Medicine

Human Rights
- Human Rights: Policy & Practice

Sustainability
- Environmental Challenges from the Amazon to the Andes
Senegal

Entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship & Inclusive Finance

Health
- Public & Community Health

Human Rights
- Human Rights: Policy & Practice

Sustainability
- Sustainable Development & Climate Change
Thailand

Entrepreneurship
● Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Food Systems

Health
● OneHealth: Humans, Animals, & Environment

Human Rights
● Human Rights & Marginalized Communities

Sustainability
● Sustainable Architecture & Design
Internship & Research

- 4 credits
- Students choose internship or research
- In-depth, grassroots experience with a local development agency
- Graded on field notes, presentation, final report, and performance assessment
Internship Examples

Ecuador
- Shadow a rural hospital that provides medical services to indigenous communities
- Conduct nutrition outreach within a rural, indigenous community
- Learn about ancestral and alternative medicine by shadowing practitioners as therapies and treatments are being delivered

Senegal
- Work in a women’s maternal health clinic
- Assist a public health organization with disease tracking, reporting and mapping
- Work in a traditional medicine institution

Thailand
- Assist in the preparation of medical supplies for relief organizations that serve refugees
- Assist in building mobile health clinics that will be used to improve the health of populations of internally displaced people
- Collect information regarding traditional medical plant remedies that are used among indigenous people
COVID-19 & Health Placements

- We were limiting patient-facing placements, but are starting to phase them back in.
- If we feel confident in the level of PPE our students would be provided, we can move forward.
- However, these placements should not take away resources from the local staff and communities (PPE, time, etc.).
- Placements may need to change based on current COVID levels and local resources.
Housing

- Homestays with local middle-class families in Senegal and Ecuador
- Apartments in Thailand
- Students often have two homestay experiences—one in the classroom phase and one during their internship or research
- Offers a chance to develop language and provides a cultural connection
- All families are vetted, go through a training, and are often found via recommendations
MSID Student Feedback

• “It was a life-changing experience!”

• “I was more integrated into the MSID country than I could have imagined possible through study abroad.”

• “I felt that I had a second family away from home.”

• “I could finally see in action the concepts that I learned in the USA.”
Thanks! Questions?