

FIJI CULTURAL IMMERSION IN VILLAGE LIFE

GLOBAL HEALTH
INTERNSHIP SUMMER 2024



The central aspect of this program is immersion in a traditional village in rural, remote Fiji. In this setting, students are far-away from the accustomed comforts of life characterizing the developed world. Students must embrace this very basic way of life as they are “adopted” as a member of a Fijian family and community. This traditional way of life presents challenges that require patience, resilience, and commitment to apply/developing cultural understanding, competency, and humility. Clearly, this unique educational journey and adventure is **not for everyone!** Think eating meals on mats on the floor, bucket showers, pit toilets, eating an unfamiliar diet, etc!

This program is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn through experience indigenous Fijian culture from members of the village. Young adults from the village teach you critical aspects of their customs, values, lifestyles, and traditions. Examples of topics that students will be taught include: lovo (traditional method of cooking), farming, local fishing practices, origin stories and local history, Meke (traditional dance), Vucu (traditional song), handcrafts, and weaving. Students will participate hands-on in these traditions and activities.

Each weekday morning, students contribute to the sustainable development of the village by participating in a project. Students pick one of the following projects: 1) **youth empowerment**, 2) **mental health promotion**, or 3) **community building development** (building a village health center). These projects, founded on a unique local approach, are organized and coordinated by local NGOs and the Fijian government. This sets up a unique cultural exchange between the villagers and the students, where the students and villagers engage in grassroots discussions on topics relevant to all young people today. Students returning from this experience will have gained critical cultural understanding, appreciation for cultural differences, increased resourcefulness/resilience, greater understanding of global development issues, and increased self-awareness. This program is in partnership with Think Pacific, a United Kingdom-based organization devoted to improving the development of Fijian communities. You can learn more by visiting www.byuglobalhealth.org and www.thinkpacific.com.

DATES

This program will run for 4 weeks during Summer Term 2024. Exact dates to be determined and announced.

HOUSING

You will live with a Fijian village family for 3 ½ weeks. During the briefing/orientation and reflection days of the program you will be housed in a backpacker-style beach “resort.” All meals while staying with your family and breakfast and evening meals during your briefing/reflection days at the resort will be provided.

COURSES

Students in the program Summer Term are required to take a minimum of 6 credits from this list of courses: IAS 380, IAS 399, HLTH 199, HLTH 403, HLTH 481, HLTH 492, or HLTH 491R. Graduate credit for MPH fieldwork is available.

ELECTIVE — Students may be interested in investigating the local culture by taking IAS 380 Cultural Proofs for 1–3 credit hours. This self-guided course allows students to do independent intercultural research, interview locals, and experience local culture.

COST

\$3,400–3,900

This cost includes undergraduate tuition for six credits Summer Term, international health insurance coverage, housing, meals during homestay, breakfast and dinner during stay at resort, airport pickup on arrival, orientation, onsite coordination, 24-hour emergency assistance, and local transportation. Does not include international airfare, preparation course tuition, passport, visa(s), personal expenses, extra meals and snacks, cell phones/international data, or personal excursions.

TRAVEL

Students are responsible for purchasing their own airfare to and from the program. Airfare reservations must be made through BYU Travel. Students should contact a BYU Travel agent at: BYU Travel, 280 HRCB, 801-422-6293 travel@byu.edu

PREPARATION

Students from many majors are encouraged to apply. Accepted students are required to participate in an international preparation course (IAS 369R, 1 credit hour). This second-block evening course will be held during winter semester. Accompanying spouses need to be credit-bearing participants on the program. Spouses will also need to apply online and take the preparation course. **Students must meet all country - program specific COVID and health requirements for travel.**

FUNDING SOURCES

Regular BYU tuition scholarships, Pell Grants, and Federal Insured Student Loans may be applied to study abroad programs. Academic departments and colleges may assist with scholarships and grants. Private grants and scholarships outside of BYU may also assist (see kennedy.byu.edu/student/scholarships).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete the online application at kennedy.byu.edu/isp-apply. The application requires a \$35 fee. Applicants will be interviewed once the application is complete. Students will be notified via e-mail of their acceptance into the program. First payment due upon acceptance. Students will also be required to complete an enrollment or application with Think Pacific and a police background check may be required.

Priority Deadline: 1 December 2023

Application Deadline: 1 February 2024

FACULTY

Randy M Page, Director of the Global Health Internship Program and Professor of Public Health is the faculty director for the program. **Tana Page**, Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Public Health, will be the Assistant Director.

SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT

Students will be in Fiji for 4 weeks. Students will be required to complete academic assignments prior to this time and upon returning home from the program.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT

International Study Programs
101 HRCB | (801) 422-3686
kennedy.byu.edu/isp

or

Dr. Randy M Page
2030 LSB | (801) 422-1131
randy_page@byu.edu

or

Tana S. Page
2148 LSB
tana_page@byu.edu

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS

ISP reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost. If it becomes necessary for ISP to cancel a program, all program payments made to BYU ISP will be refunded to the student's BYU Financial account. ISP is the only office authorized to cancel any of its programs.