Office of International Programs  
Faculty International Program Development Grants  
Report Template

This report will be posted on the Office of International Programs web site to allow other faculty members to benefit from your experience abroad. Please submit the completed report to oip@mail.sdsu.edu.

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Proposal title: Director, School of Nursing  
Country/ies visited: Nicaragua  
Institution(s) visited: Universidad Centroamericana (UCA)  
Dates of travel: June 28 – July 6, 2013  
Number of SDSU student participants: 1  
Number of non-student participants: 0  
Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum): This travel request supports on-going community-based participatory research in Managua and exploration of study abroad options with UCA.

Travel report:

I. **Overview of intentions/activity:** I participated in a study abroad trip sponsored by Fairfield University to Managua, Nicaragua. One SDSU nursing student participated along with four Fairfield University nursing students and one Fairfield University faculty member. During this trip we met with Laurie Cordua Cruz, Director of Academic Cooperation and Internationalization at UCA to plan for SDSU study abroad opportunities to continue our CBPR work.

II. **In preparation for the trip abroad,** all students prepared and shared information about the cultural, political, social, and economic history of Nicaragua. Conference calls and e-mail served as the methods of communicating among the students so that they were prepared for the trip. Faculty distributed readings...
and guidelines/expectations for behavior within the group and presented an overview of project activities and goals.

III. Upon arrival in Managua, we were met by UCA Study Abroad staff and transported by UCA van to Hotel Casa San Juan, located a few blocks from the UCA campus. Each day consisted of meeting the UCA English majors and Social Work students who served as our translators and data collection partners respectively. We discussed the work for the day and then traveled to Barrio Ayapal to meet our community partner. Marisol and her teachers led five groups of students – one UCA translator, one UCA SW student, and one nursing student – who conducted follow-up data collection with parents and observed pre-school students as they washed their hands and brushed their teeth. Most afternoons included lunch at a local Nicaraguan buffet and cultural tours of Managua, Masaya, and surrounding towns. Evenings were spent writing reflective journals, sharing experiences, critiquing data collection and completing data entry. The last day included a cultural trip to Granada, a boat ride on Lake Nicaragua, and dinner/shopping near the city central park.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next steps
UCA is willing to create a Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Agreement to have SDSU student participate in study abroad programs with UCA. At the SDSU end, we need to decide how to operationalize our trips. It is possible to arrange trips for summer, January, and Spring breaks. UCA provides a package arrangement that includes hotel, transportation, meals, meeting space on the UCA campus, staff support, on-call medical assistance, and security for one fee. We need to provide the faculty leader (preferably two faculty as health issues often affect at least one faculty member each trip) and provide the course structure and credits for our students. UCA is also willing to discuss student exchanges, but funding is a barrier for their students coming here.

V. Additional Information
UCA is also developing an internationalization at home approach where they welcome foreign students to their campus because they recognize how expensive and difficult it is for their students to travel abroad. Our partners in Switzerland expressed the same interest as international travel becomes more expensive for their students.