IU Overseas Study Returns to Peru

For the first time in a decade, Indiana University is recruiting students for its semester program of study in Lima, Peru. “We are delighted to be back in Peru,” said Richard E. Stryker, director of the Office of Overseas Study (OVST). “This is the fortieth anniversary of the founding of IU’s program in Peru, and we believe that it is safe once again to send our students to this fascinating country with which IU has such special linkages.”

Established in 1959, but suspended in 1990 during a period of Peruvian political upheavals, IU’s oldest overseas study program will once again offer a broad range of courses in the humanities and social sciences with an Andean focus. Students can earn IU credit for courses as diverse as Peruvian archaeology; Andean ethnography; Amazonian ethnography; history of Peruvian art, society and politics in Latin America; Latin American literature; and history of Peru.

IU undergraduates will enroll in classes with Peruvian students at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru (PUCP), a prestigious, private university with 17,000 students. At PUCP’s compact, modern campus in the suburb of Pueblo Libre, students will have access to email, library, and sports facilities. Housing and meals with Peruvian families will provide immersion in Peruvian life and ready access to advice about practical and cultural issues.

Lima offers an exciting environment for students. According to Cristina Alcalde, a native of Peru now pursuing graduate study in anthropology at IUB, “Lima not only has wonderful archaeological and anthropological museums with exhibitions on Peru’s many ancient cultures (Moche, Nazca, Chavin, and the Incas, among others), but also has penas—dance clubs specializing in Afro-Peruvian music—and food ranging from the typical cebiche to suspiro de limena—a wonderful dessert for those with a sweet tooth—to Japanese and other ethnic restaurants.”

“There is so much to experience in Peru,” says Geoffrey Conrad, professor of anthropology and director of the Mathers Museum of World Cultures. “With its archaeology and colonial history, you really feel connected to the past in Peru. You can touch it, put your hand on it.” The program organizes an optional week-long field trip to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Other attractions include the Nazca lines and pre-Inca pyramids on the Pacific coast, Lake Titicaca, the colonial plaza and churches in Arequipa, and the rich biological diversity of the Amazonian jungle.

Applications and further information are available on OVST’s Web site at http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas or contact OVST, Franklin Hall 303, IUB; telephone: 812/855-9305; fax: 812/855-6452. Applications for the fall of 2000 must be received by February 25, 2000.

—Libby DeVoe
Office of Overseas Study