

Application

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

What type of work do you see yourself doing in the next five years?

Have you ever traveled outside of the United States? Where?

Describe any of your classes or experiences that might be related to this course.

Briefly describe your expectations for the program and what you would like to accomplish.

Destinations



Puerto Rico

The island of Puerto Rico is a self-governing unincorporated territory of the United States located in the northeastern Caribbean, east of the Dominican Republic and west of the Virgin Islands. As a result of its geographical position in the

center of the arc of the Antilles, Puerto Rico is essentially a crossroads of Hispanic and Anglo cultures. Despite its very diverse influx of cultures, Puerto Rico has been a part of the United States since 1898, and Puerto Ricans have been U.S. citizens since 1917. Close to 4 million people live on the "Island of Enchantment," with more than a million in the greater San Juan metropolitan area alone. The territory is a vibrant, modern, bilingual, multicultural society, one that has been molded by indigenous African, European and U.S. influences. Both Spanish and English are the official languages.

San Juan

San Juan, founded in 1521, is the capitol of Puerto Rico and is also known as "La Ciudad Amurallada" (the walled city). As a major port and tourist resort of the West Indies, San Juan is the oldest city under the U.S. flag and the second oldest city in the Americas. The metropolitan area has three distinct sectors: Old San Juan, the Beach & Resort area and other outlying communities including the financial district. San Juan is a spirited, modern city with high-rise beach strips and a famous colonial core.

University of Puerto Rico

Founded in 1903, the University of Puerto Rico is the oldest and largest university system in Puerto Rico. Though Puerto Rico is not a U.S. state, the system is run much like a state university system, and its programs have been accredited by U.S. accreditation agencies. UPR consists of 11 campuses with approximately 64,740 students and faculty. The university's School of Social Work, *la Escuela Graduada de Trabajo Social Beatriz Lassalle*, is the oldest professional school of social work within the College of Social Sciences and the second oldest on the main Rio Piedras campus. UPR offered its first social work course with academic credits in 1929. Since then, the school as evolved into a leading academic institution in graduate education. Currently, the school offers an MSW degree and is the sole provider of doctoral education in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.



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www.usc.edu/socialwork



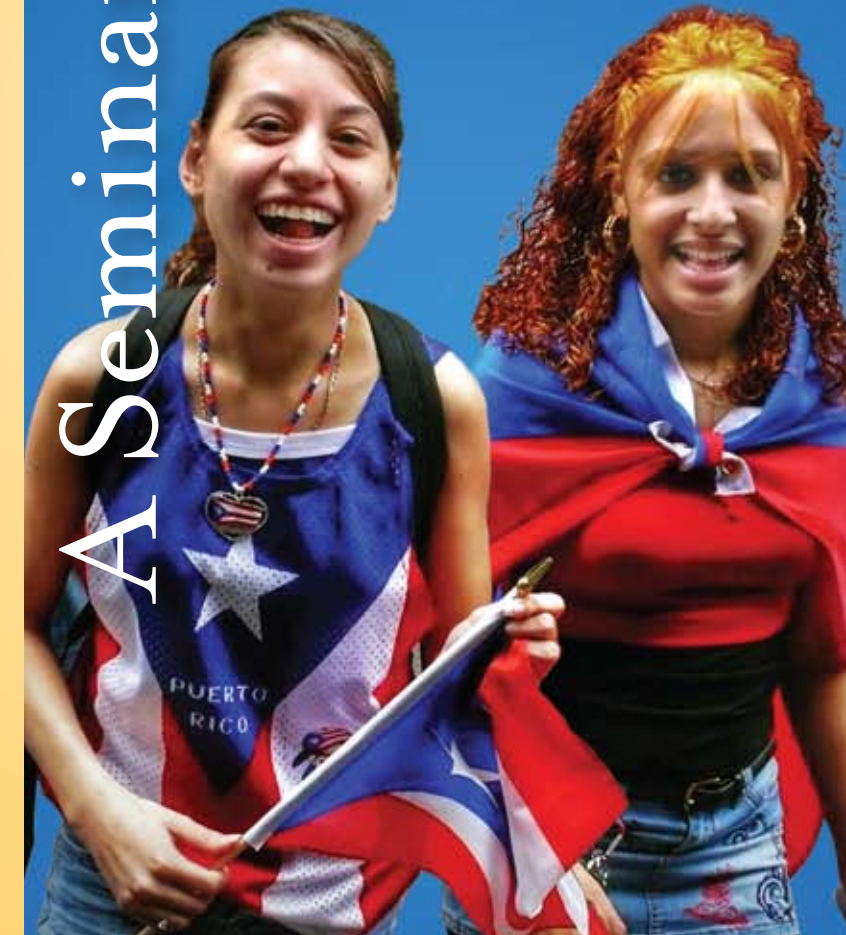
A Seminar Studying Abroad



Diversity in a Caribbean Context:
Implications for Social Work

Puerto Rico

May/June



Diversity in a Caribbean Context: Implications for Social Work

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May/June



The University of Southern California School of Social Work offers a unique global immersion program in Puerto Rico designed to provide students with both classroom and experiential learning experiences in diversity and social work practice in Latin America and the Caribbean. The program will examine how diversity characterizes and shapes the human experience and is critical to the formation of identity. Participants will explore multiple factors of diversity including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation.

Drawing from the rich history and experience of the Puerto Rican people, students will increase their knowledge of diversity and social work practice from a regional perspective on such issues as race and identity, colonization and oppression, immigration/migration, environmental racism and other large system influences on health and well-being, and the role of social work in both clinical and community practice. A central underlying theme is the resiliency of individuals, families and communities within empowerment-oriented ideologies and practice in the U.S. and abroad. Students will be immersed in daily social and cultural interactions with faculty and students from the University of Puerto Rico and associated human service programs on the island.

FORMAT

The three-week program begins in Los Angeles, followed by learning experiences in San Juan and other cities in Puerto Rico. A pre-departure session on campus includes a distance-education lecture with faculty at the University of Puerto Rico's School of Social Work. Two weeks in Puerto Rico involve daily instruction that combines lectures with faculty and guest speakers, discussion panels, in-class exercises, small group fieldwork and site visits to community organizations in and around San Juan and outlying areas.

PARTICIPANTS

The program is designed for a limited number of graduate-level social work students on a first-come, first-served basis. It is recommended that prospective participants attend at least one informational meeting in order to become familiar with the expectations and logistics of the program.

ACCOMMODATIONS (subject to change)

USC will arrange housing in San Juan at either a small hotel or short-term apartment.

COSTS

Program costs include two-week accommodations (double-room occupancy), breakfasts and lunches, local transportation during program hours and field excursions on the island. Costs also include a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional, including tuition for a required 4-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health insurance plan and covered by the international study abroad option. All participants will be responsible for their own roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles to San Juan, dinners and snacks, non-program local transportation and other incidentals.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL GAIN

- Exposure to global social work through understanding regional social problems and social problem-solving in a different culture
- Hands-on experience with individual, family and community practice models of social work in a Caribbean setting
- A comparative perspective on similar social issues approached differently in the United States and Puerto Rico
- An historical, cultural, religious and social perspective of factors that shape Puerto Rican society and the resilience of its citizens
- Knowledge of empowerment theory and its application to clients in different social work settings
- A repertoire of practice skills and techniques that can be utilized in working with various clients and communities
- A broader understanding of challenges and opportunities in working within interdisciplinary teams
- Professional and personal growth associated with cross-cultural exposure
- An international network of social work colleagues and other professional connections

Will I get credit toward my degree?

If you are enrolled in the USC School of Social Work, you will receive a 4-unit credit for completing the program.

Will this program help my chances of finding a job?

With the world growing smaller every day and the economies of all nations becoming increasingly intertwined, employers, regardless of profession, are eager for employees who bring new and innovative approaches that are often shaped by experiences in non- traditional classroom settings.

Is financial aid available?

Scholarships are not available. However, if you are receiving financial aid for your graduate education, you may also be able to use it toward international study. For details, visit the School of Social Work's Financial Aid Office.

Do I need a passport and visa?

No. You will not need a passport or visa to enter Puerto Rico. However, you will need some form of official government-issued documentation such as a driver's license.

What is the weather like in Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico enjoys a warm, tropical climate with year-round temperatures hovering at 82°F (27°C). The temperature in the south is usually a few degrees higher than the north, and temperatures in the central interior mountains are always cooler than the rest of the island. Expect warm, sunny days in San Juan, but be prepared for a short rain shower anytime.

What do I pack?

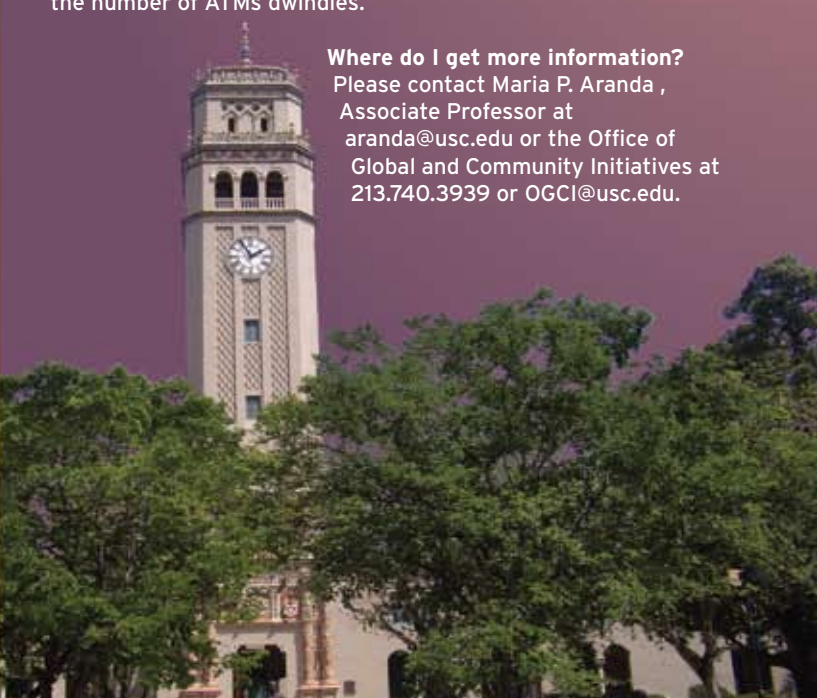
Casual, light clothing. Jeans are acceptable in the classroom and in the field. You may also want to bring a bathing suit and a sweater or jacket for comfort in air-conditioned buildings or vehicles. Appropriate dinner attire is suggested for evening events. Please note that airline baggage rules and requirements may change, thus, it is important that you check with the airline carrier regarding baggage allowances. You may be charged additional baggage fees.

What is the money situation?

The U.S. dollar is the official currency in Puerto Rico, occasionally referred to as the peso. All major credit cards and traveler's checks are widely accepted, with ATM machines in abundant supply. However, once you leave the cities and tourist areas, it's best to carry cash, as the number of ATMs dwindle.

Where do I get more information?

Please contact Maria P. Aranda , Associate Professor at aranda@usc.edu or the Office of Global and Community Initiatives at 213.740.3939 or OGCI@usc.edu.



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Puerto Rico

May/June

BASIC INFORMATION

Name _____

School address _____

Permanent address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

Phone _____

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE/AGENCY AFFILIATION

Name of school or agency _____

Title _____

Address _____

Degree to date _____

Expected degree _____

Expected graduation date _____

Student ID # (if applicable) _____