

Application – IPDS Costa Rica

SUNY Buffalo State School of Education



The School of Education at SUNY Buffalo State believes that education students engaged in global outreach and travel – whether locally, nationally, or internationally – are better prepared to become teachers who meet the needs of children in today’s classrooms. Students who study, teach, and observe abroad enhance their academic proficiency, develop confidence and leadership skills, build credentials noticed by future employers, and bring an inclusive approach to their teaching.

Program Overview

IPDS Costa Rica is an International Professional Development Schools program offered in the spring semester with travel in June. It includes enrollment in a 3-credit course and 2.5-weeks in San José, Costa Rica. Selected participants must submit a non-refundable application fee, deposit, and all final payments by the deadlines specified. Participants must obtain a passport valid for at least 3 months after travel return date, complete required paperwork and processes, purchase travel insurance through Buffalo State, participate in the pre-travel course, and adhere to all health and travel regulations.

PROGRAM WEBSITE: <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/costa-rica>
PROGRAM COORDINATORS: Tamara Horstman-Riphahn | School of Education | horstmath@buffalostate.edu
Pamela Schuetze-Pizarro | Psychology | schuetp@buffalostate.edu
Angela Patti | Exceptional Education | pattial@buffalostate.edu

Eligibility and Requirements

- Open to all undergraduate and graduate students. Good fit for psychology, social work, and teacher education majors.
- Applicant must be a currently enrolled Buffalo State student (including those graduating the May before travel).
- Applicant must maintain good academic standing.
- Applicant must be able to obtain passport.

Application Materials & Process

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE November 1. Qualified applicants are interviewed in November and notified of decision in December.

Submit the following to: **Tamara Horstman-Riphahn** | horstmath@buffalostate.edu ♦ Fax (716) 878-5301
School of Education ♦ 1300 Elmwood Avenue ♦ Bacon 306 ♦ Buffalo, NY 14222

- **IPDS APPLICATION FORM** – Complete the fillable PDF and submit by email or mail with transcript and statement.
- **TRANSCRIPT** – Submit your most recent transcript (does not have to be official), Degree Works, or Banner printout. Materials must show your overall GPA and registration for semester corresponding to IPDS program. PDF preferred.
- **STATEMENT OF INTENT** – Submit a typed statement of no more than 500 words responding to the following prompts. Be thorough so reviewers can get a clear picture of your interest and intent regarding this program.
 - What do you hope to gain from this program professionally/academically and how you plan to integrate your experiences into your teaching? What do you hope to gain personally?
 - What do you hope to bring to the program (our hosts, the children in the schools, your peers, etc.)?
 - What characteristics and experiences will help you be successful in this program? For instance: What are your interests? What are your strengths and challenges? How do you handle stressful situations, etc.?
 - What do you feel is important when communicating with people of varying beliefs, backgrounds, and cultures?
 - How will you be an ambassador of Buffalo State and the USA?
- **IPDS ACADEMIC REFERENCE FORM** – Ask one recent instructor or advisor to complete the fillable PDF form and to submit directly to Tamara by email or mail.

IPDS Application Form

SUNY Buffalo State School of Education



Personal Information

Name _____
last

_____ first _____ middle

Date of Birth _____ Preferred Pronoun _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Mailing Address _____
street

_____ city _____ state _____ zip

Email 1 _____
Buffalo State

Email 2 _____
Personal / Secondary

Phone (mobile) _____

Country(ies) of Citizenship _____

Racial/Ethnic Background _____

Academic Information

Graduate Student Undergraduate Student

Department _____

Degree _____

Field of Study _____

Academic Advisor _____

Expected Graduation Date _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Major GPA _____

Banner # _____

Academic Reference

Name _____

Institution _____

Title _____

For Office Use Only:

RCVD:

DCSN:

Travel Information

IPDS program to which you are applying:

- Chile Costa Rica Dominican Republic
 Germany Honduras Italy
 Zambia Student Teaching abroad

Languages spoken (other than English)

Dietary practices or needs, Allergies, Health Concerns, etc.

Passport Information

** Do not complete this section unless you have already obtained a passport. Reference your passport for accuracy.*

Legal Name (**EXACTLY** as it appears on your passport)

Passport # _____

Expiration Date _____

Country of Citizenship _____

Emergency Contact - Primary

Name _____

Relationship to You _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Emergency Contact - Secondary

Name _____

Relationship to You _____

Email _____

Phone _____



IPDS Academic Reference Form

Return completed reference form directly to:

Tamara Horstman-Riphahn ♦ School of Education ♦ 1300 Elmwood Avenue ♦ Bacon 306 ♦ Buffalo, NY 14222

Phone (716) 878-3008 ♦ Fax (716) 878-5301 ♦ Email horstmath@buffalostate.edu

Learn about IPDS: <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/international-pds>

Name _____ Email _____

Title _____ Department _____ Institution _____

Student Last Name _____ Student First Name _____

IPDS program to which the student is applying:

- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Germany
- Honduras
- Italy
- Zambia
- Student Teaching

In what capacity do you know the applicant? _____

Would you expect this student to be appropriate and considerate as a homestay participant? YES NO UNSURE

Would you enjoy having this student as a member of a group for which you were responsible? YES NO UNSURE

IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER STUDENTS YOU HAVE KNOWN, RATE THE APPLICANT WITH REGARDS TO THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

Capacity for Independent Study: *demonstrates motivation, initiative, and ability to be self-sufficient in educational program* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Responsibility / Reliability: *demonstrates dependability and accountability for own actions* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Integrity: *demonstrates respectfulness and commitment to high ethical standards* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Interpersonal Skills / Open Mindedness: *demonstrates ability to work with others and envision multiple perspectives or ways of being* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Communication Skills: *demonstrates ability to express self in clear and professional manner – verbally and in writing* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Common Sense / Good Judgment: *demonstrates ability to act with maturity, self-discipline, and forethought* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Resourcefulness / Problem-Solving Skills: *demonstrates ability to adapt to new, uninstructed, or unusual situations* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Coping Skills: *demonstrates ability to deal with stress and ambiguity* Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE APPLICANT’S STRENGTHS, EXPLAIN ANY WEAKNESSES RELATED TO STUDYING ABROAD, ELABORATE ON THE CHARACTERISTICS ABOVE, AND COMMENT ON THE APPLICANT’S POTENTIAL FOR THIS PROGRAM.