Course Description
The ISP offers students the opportunity to undertake a specific and individualized independent field study that falls within the program’s parameters. The ISP provides access to material and human resources in Peru and facilitates greater understanding through further immersion into the host culture. Language training, RME, excursions, and the thematic courses provide sources of information and additional skills training for research into the topic of the study. The direction and monitoring of the students during the ISP phase reviews methods of learning as well as progress towards the finished project. The final paper, in turn, provides the material evidence of student achievement in application of the chosen research methods and in synthesizing experiences during the ISP. Projects are based on field studies and designed to take advantage of the unique human and material resources in Peru.

Course Objectives
- To enable students to conduct independent field research
- To enable students to undergo research in a foreign cultural milieu
- To give students the opportunity to practice language and intercultural skills while doing research
- To gain added understanding of the host culture
- To acquire specialized knowledge about the topic of study

Expected Learning Outcomes
By the end of the ISP period, students should be able to:
- Identify, describe and analyze information relevant to their research topic
- Acquire relevant information using language and intercultural skills learned in the program
- Apply a relevant research methodology learned in the program
- Discuss and reflect upon specific research issues identified in the program
- Explain phenomena or issues relevant to their research topic
- Write a research paper which includes primary and secondary sources

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Course Requirements

- Productive and appropriate use of the 120 hours dedicated to the completion of the ISP;
- Demonstration of increased depth of understanding, analytical clarity and cross-cultural sensitivity;
- Demonstration of the implementation of techniques learned in the RME course;
- Use, above all, of primary sources of information as opposed to restricting research to secondary resources;
- Periodic progress conferences held with the AD and the ISP advisor
- Success in meeting the deadlines
- Effective oral and written presentations of the project;

To aid in determining the appropriateness of the preliminary proposal students should ask themselves the following questions:

1. Could this project be done in the U.S.? (If so, inappropriate)?
2. Does this project require extensive library research? (If so, inappropriate)?
3. Is this project sufficiently focused? (If not, inappropriate)?
4. Can I reasonably expect to complete this project in the actual ISP period (actual study period = 1 month), given the limitations of time, transportation, linguistic challenges, access to resources, and costs? (If not, inappropriate)?
5. Will this project require me to have extensive contact with Peruvians? (If so, possibly appropriate topic)?
6. Could this project yield interesting, specific insight into some aspect of Peru, as well as new learning skills? (If so, possibly an appropriate topic)?

Contact with AD

For security reasons, all students are required to contact the AD periodically during the ISP period. Such communication is aimed also to update information for emergency contact and to address any concerns the students might have about their projects.

Written Paper

The final project, of between approximately 20 and 25 pages in length must have the following elements:

- **Title page:** including the title (50 characters or less), students’ name, the Project adviser’s name and the relevant Academic Director’s name.
- **Table of Contents:** must include page numbers.
- **Abstract:** a summary of what is to be found in the final project, must be written in both Spanish and in English.
- **Introduction:** at least one page introducing the subject and major themes i.e. what the reader should expect to find in your project.
- **Methodology:** one to three pages explaining how data was gathered, reflecting the information obtained in the RME lectures and readings.
- **Body:** the coherent development and articulation of the results of your research.
- **Conclusion:** one to three pages that present in a systematized manner the results of analysis.
- **Footnotes/Endnotes:** all quotes and paraphrased, borrowed ideas or phraseology should be cited, along with statistics and figures used.

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• **Bibliography**: books, articles, films, interviews and any other source of information in standard form. Interviews should include the name of the interviewee (unless s/he wishes to remain anonymous), title/subject of interview, date and place in which the interview took place. Whenever possible, the address and telephone number of the interviewees should appear in your ISP work journal.

• **Appendix**: optional. Items included for reader’s reference (maps, diagrams, etc.)

The final paper should be neat, legible and error free. Poorly written and/or sloppy work will not be accepted.

**Oral Presentation**
Each student will be expected to give an oral presentation in Spanish of his/her ISP as part of the final evaluation. Evaluation of the oral presentation will take into account the appropriateness of language used, voice projection and visual aids. All students are expected to prepare a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of this presentation should be given to the academic director at the end of the presentation. If a student wishes to use a different type of visual aid this should be discussed with the Academic Director at least two weeks before the presentation.

**Student Expectations**
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and culturally respectful behavior. Please note: all classes leave ¼ of the scheduled time for the purpose of class discussion of the lecture and/or readings.

**Student Assessment and Evaluation**
The final ISP grade will consider both written work and the oral presentation. The final ISP paper will account for 70% of the grade. The oral presentation will account for 30% of the grade. Further information for the assessment of both the final paper and the oral presentation will be given to the student the week before the beginning of the ISP period.

**Grading Scales and Criteria**
Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, the ability to take into account and assimilate the Academic Director’s advice in assessing the work done. An “A” letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences, research, and analysis. It shows great ability to integrate field-based investigation and personal reflection into a structured and well-argued paper. A “B” letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at analyzing and understanding cross-cultural issues. A “C” letter grade shows the work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A “D” letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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70-73%   C-
67-69%    D+
64-66%    D
below 64  F

Please see the SIT Study Abroad student handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Please note: the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may modified by the Academic Director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.