
Duke Immerse Proposal Guidelines – Letter of Intent

What is Duke Immerse?

Duke Immerse is an intensive, course-coordinated semester designed around a central theme or global challenge. Each Duke Immerse is four or five credits; a small cohort of undergraduates (<18) enrolls in the cross-listed set of seminars. A couple of examples:

- [Imagining the Future of Food](#) (fall semester), led by Professors Saskia Cornes, Chantal Reid, Dalia Patino-Echeverri and Luciana Fellin, critically examines how food is grown, who grows it, how we talk about this, and why it matters. Curricula includes intensive training in Environmental Life Cycle Assessment. The cohort spends a couple of weeks in northern California and eastern North Carolina studying components of the food system. They visit urban farms and confined animal feeding operations and engage industry leaders, suppliers and innovators. The culminating research project is a comparative analysis, synthesizing perspectives and data from the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.
- [Deconstructing / Reconstructing the Refugee Experience](#) (spring semester) explores the global refugee crisis with an interdisciplinary teaching team led by Professor Suzanne Shanahan. The program explores the dynamics of human displacement through the lenses of ethics, policy, economics and culture. The cohort meets with resettled refugees in Durham, then spends four weeks near refugee communities in Nepal or the Middle East, collecting oral histories. As a final product, students learn to retell these narratives (e.g., through performance, as a public school curriculum).

Interested? Submit a Letter of Intent.

To propose a new program, submit a letter of intent to Duke Immerse Program Director, Morgan Barlow (morgan.barlow@duke.edu). Include in the letter a brief description of:

1. Overall concept and theme
2. Who will be involved (instructors, staff*)
3. All courses (new or existing) to be included
4. Target student audience
5. Field-based experience or travel
6. Collaboration with community partner(s), if applicable

Questions? Ideas?

Contact Professor and Vice Provost Gary Bennett (gary.bennett@duke.edu) or Duke Immerse Program Director, Morgan Barlow (morgan.barlow@duke.edu).

The proposal process is iterative; after the letter of interest is reviewed and approved, faculty work with the Program Director to articulate and develop the program details and budget.

** Staff may include post-doctoral fellows, student teaching assistants, and/or program coordinators; all credit-bearing courses need to be led by someone with a terminal degree (e.g., doctoral degree, J.D.).*