

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCES

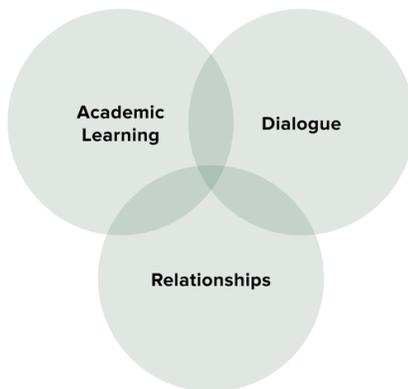


Engaging with local communities is a meaningful component of an education abroad experience. It is important to identify your goals in advance and consider how you can foster an experience that benefits not only you, but also the community with which you are engaging. No matter the duration or design, participants must take care to "do no harm" or inadvertently perpetuate cycles of marginalization. It is critical to consider ethical engagement that specifically prioritizes human dignity, empowerment, and community autonomy, so that the educational agendas of the participants are not prioritized over the community and individuals with which they are engaging.

This guidance is adapted from the Forum on Education Abroad "Guidelines for Community Engagement, Service-Learning, and Volunteer Experiences Abroad" (2018). Per the Forum's recommendations, CSU Education Abroad utilizes "Community Engagement Experiences" as the umbrella term that encompasses all of these international experiences. While they share core commitments, they vary in ways that may help you formulate what sort of international community engagement experience resonates with your interests and goals.

To help frame "Community Engagement Experiences," three common variations are outlined below. Many of CSU's Education Abroad programs include community engagement. Please speak to an Education Abroad Coordinator to learn more about these opportunities and other considerations before committing yourself to any international experience.

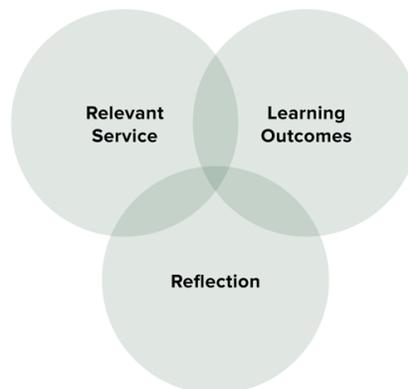
## Community Engagement



A course, internship, program or experience that enhances academic learning through reciprocal relationships with communities that offer opportunities to advance critical thinking, develop civic skills, and address public problems.

**Key concepts:** structured; reciprocal learning; instructor-led; service secondary to academic learning outcomes; engagement activity encourages discussion-based learning

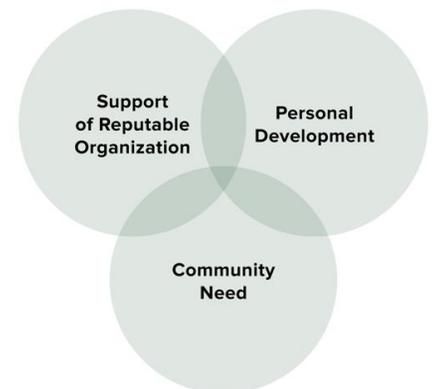
## Service Learning



A form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities for reflection designed to achieve desired learning outcomes.

**Key concepts:** led by an instructor, student, and/or local leader; community defined experience; hands on; sustained commitment; experience supports defined learning outcomes

## Volunteering



Largely self-directed, unpaid work or service-based learning opportunity initiated by students motivated to respond to the needs of an organization or community, often without specific learning objectives or associated coursework.

**Key concepts:** self-directed; civic responsibility; supplemental to the education abroad experience; need defined by the community and/or a reputable organization