

South Africa: Embracing Indigenous Mathematical Knowledge Systems (IMKS)

Sponsored by the College of Education and Human Development



Summer Study Abroad Program

July 1-7, 2018

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Program Description

The role of Indigenous Mathematical Knowledge Systems (IMKS) is paramount for the survival of many South African citizens, particularly in the countryside. This immersion program is part of a 3-credit graduate level course in mathematics education. EDMT 7400: MATH Concepts for Special Learners (Special Topic: Indigenous Mathematical Knowledge Systems) introduces students to an assortment of tacit, implicit and explicit mathematical knowledge and skills that people in a particular geographic area possess and that enable them to get the most out of their environment. This experience is facilitated over seven weeks and dovetails two components:

Part 1: Class work (June- location: GSU). During course work, students will be introduced to the traditional technologies and practices that have been and still are used by indigenous and local people for existence, survival and adaptation in a variety of South African contexts. The primary purpose of this component is to provide a broad perspective on indigenous knowledge systems that cover a plethora of contents and contexts that incorporate a variety of mathematical structures including architecture, mural decorations, indigenous games, bead work, weaving, cultural artifacts and other social systems and activities.

Part 2: Cultural immersion (July, location: South Africa). In the study abroad component, students will visit a number of cultural villages in South Africa, which preserves the traditions of authentic Zulu civilization and hosts a number of various Zulu artwork forms that are scattered throughout the village. Students will learn the significance of geometric designs and stripe patterns that thrive in the traditional Zulu work by examining a wide variety of authentic arts and crafts including clay pots and basket ware, utensils and clothing. Additionally, students will explore myriad social networking settings, such as campfire storytelling, that were used to transfer such knowledge to the younger generations in an effort to provide them with strategies for survival in their ecological niche. Students will be afforded opportunities to open dialogue with knowledge holders who are key figures in adapting and adding to these knowledge systems in response to changing circumstances and environmental conditions.

Application Information

Students interested in applying should find this program's listing at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and begin an online application.

Transient Students: please see the Transient Student section under the Explore & Apply tab.

International students at Georgia State who hold F-1 visas must contact the Office of International Students and Scholar Services at (404) 413-2070 to discuss possible implications of study abroad for their immigration status.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2018

2018

Eligibility

The program is offered to all students at the graduate level. Transient students are welcome. Registration in the course is competitive and high priority is given to early applicants. Approval by the Program Director is required prior to participation. Program size is limited and participation is contingent upon acceptance by the Program Director.

Accommodations

Participants will stay in double occupancy hotel rooms or guest cottages.

Tentative Program Itinerary

July 1 - Depart Atlanta; Arrive in Potchefstroom, July 2

July 2 & 3 - Visit cultural villages

July 4-6 - Cultural immersion projects; observation and reflections

July 7 - Depart for Atlanta

Program Director Contact Information

Iman Chahine, Ph.D.

30 Pryor Street, COE Building Room 611

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**Courses and Credits**

Participants who successfully complete the program course will receive three semester hours of course credit at Georgia State University. Students should register for EDMT 7400: MATH Concepts for Special Learners. Students from other institutions should follow their institution's regulations concerning transfer credits.

Program Cost

Program cost may vary at any time according to currency fluctuations and changing travel arrangements. **The program cost is tentatively set at \$1,500 (excluding airfare), PLUS regular Georgia State University tuition and fees.** Non-resident/out-of-state students will pay in-state tuition plus a \$250 fee in addition to the program cost. For more information on what the program cost does and does not include, please visit:

<http://www.studyabroad.gsu.edu/?go=IMKS>

Payment Schedule

February 15, 2018: \$500 deposit due

March 15, 2018: \$500 payment due

April 2, 2018: Program cost charged to student account; study abroad scholarships posted.

Early May 2018: \$500 remaining balance due along with tuition & fees for Maymester/Summer.

Scholarship Information

Georgia State University students may eligible for the IEF Scholarship or the Global Experience Scholarship. Visit

<http://mystudyabroad.gsu.edu/prospective/funding-study-abroad> or call the Study Abroad Programs office at (404) 413-2529 to learn more about scholarships & financial aid for study abroad.

Visit <http://www.studyabroad.gsu.edu/?go=IMKS> for more information