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LIMA, PERU

April 22 to May 2, 2027

ISL Leader: Nancy Forestell (WMGS, History)

Fee: \$5000* (funding available)

Nexos Comunitarios, is a Peruvian non-profit civil association committed to advancing Responsible Human Development through relational, place-based work with communities, and a deep understanding of context and relationships. Work is built on mutual liberation, recognizing that real change happens when relationships are strengthened and knowledge is shared in ways that honour the complexity of communities. You do not work within the traditional frameworks of development; instead, you seek to understand, question, and reshape systems from within, alongside the communities you engage with.

From pre-Inca civilizations and the Inca empire to the republic's modern upheavals—including the 1980–2000 internal armed conflict—Peru carries layered histories. The conflict caused about 69,000 deaths and disappearances, disproportionately among rural Indigenous and Quechua-speaking communities; the pandemic and recent political turmoil deepened disparities. Yet Peru remains vividly alive: dramatic coasts and highlands, world-renowned cuisine, and the everyday resourcefulness and entrepreneurial drive of its people create what many experience as a beautiful chaos—an adventure sport in itself, as Nicolás Yerovi suggests [here](#).

Nexos Comunitarios works through mutual learning. They build relationships and share knowledge in ways attuned to each place, studying how systems live on the ground and acting from within. Current strands include education through soccer (Kick-Off) and Mantis—work with knitters advancing cultural change in how artistic labor is valued. They also bring experience in blue-economy initiatives, community-led ecological sanitation, and rural/community tourism. To see how they work with people and place, watch their Participatory Documentary in the community of Cuncani (High Andes of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, Cusco), produced with ISL at StFX:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5X6c043SQgY>

This Immersion Service Learning experience is hosted by Nexos Comunitarios (NC), whose representatives plan the service placements and educational-cultural field programs. Participant activities focus on community health and development through mutual learning: they strengthen relationships, exchange knowledge with communities, and act from within local contexts rather than applying preset development formulas.

Nexos Comunitarios' current projects are located in Lima, Cajamarca, and Huaraz. Across entrepreneurial, knitting, and educational settings, participants will gain a clear view of the essence and relationships that shape how non-profits operate, and how a variety of actors understand social issues present in our current societies and become part of our efforts.

Transportation

Participants fly from Halifax and are met in Lima by representatives from Nexos Comunitarios and later fly on to Cusco. During the week, the group travels together using mini-bus transportation.

Housing

The group stays in modest hostel accommodations in Lima and Cusco. All meals are provided.

Service Placements and Group Sessions

The focus of all activities during the week is to support and understand community development from a local cultural perspective. Participants will gain first-hand experience of what life is like living on the urban fringes of Lima or for remote rural villages in the Andes. The group will learn about and participate in community development initiatives from a cultural context

Immersion participants do not need to speak Spanish as a translator accompanies the group.

APRIL - MAY 2027

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Fri/Sat 22/23	Flight, Arrival Lima, city tour, Cusco prep
April 24	orientation day, Project intro, Group transfer to Cusco
April 25	City tour, Cusco, Sacred Valley
April 26	Machu Picchu
April 27	Media Luna community visit
April 28	Andean partner village visit
April 29	Return to Lima
April 30	womens group activity
May 1	Return to Canada



Please note this schedule is a guideline for typical activities and is subject to change based on a number of factors. Flight delays, available space and staff at facilities, to name a few factors, all play a role in the scheduling process. Students should be prepared to be flexible.

*** ISL bursaries, and ISL endowment funds are available.**