

Rehearsing Change: Pachaysana's Spring 2022 Semester Plans

Provisional Plan: September 15, 2021

NOTE: Final plans will be established on October 15 and posted on our website. We will also inform all students who have applied or been accepted as well as all partners with accepted students.

This document represents Pachaysana's working plans for the **Spring 2022** semester of [Rehearsing Change](#), which we are carefully designing with our community partners to provide the safest experience for students and local participants. We are using our Fall 2021 pod-based semester as a base with a gradual "scaling-up" of the community-based components. This document explains the structure, calendar, and protocols for the semester.

Program Structure: 50% pod-based / 50% community-based on a reduced calendar (February 4 to April 27)

Students and their counterparts will participate in three separate modules (with an academic course in each module). At this time, we anticipate that each module will include a pod-component of about 10 to 12 days at one of several eco-villages where we worked during the Fall 2021 semester and a community-based component of 10 to 12 days in one of our participating partner communities. Each module will include a mini-excursion and there will be one longer excursion (5 to 7 days) between Modules 2 and 3. Pachaysana personnel will be present 24/7 during all stages of the semester, including orientation, excursions and the optional pre-semester course. We are still working with community partners to finalize the pod and community sites; however, we anticipate focusing our time with our longstanding partners in the Highlands and the Amazon regions. While the below plan states that we will work with three communities in three modules, it is possible that we combine two Modules (and their respective courses) into one longer Module, and thus only work with two communities.

Program Details:

- Special extended **pre-departure orientation**. This period includes the first 1/4 of our course *Identity and Pacha*, which is carried out online for one week. (The course continues throughout the semester with approximately one extended session per week.)
- **A one-week Orientation** in a pod at an ecovillage or lodge one hour outside of Quito. During this time, students continue the *Identity and Pacha* class and determine the focus of their *independent studies* if not decided before arrival.
- **PCR test** for students and community counterparts to enter first Module (paid for by Pachaysana). All travel to Module Site #1.
- **Module One** in an Eco-Lodge and Community #1 where we carry out the course *Theatre for Social Change*.
- **PCR test** for community counterparts entering Module 2 (paid for by Pachaysana).
- **Module Two** in an Eco-Lodge and Community #2 where we carry out the course *Design and Evaluation of Sustainable Community Projects*
- A structured **excursion** for the international student cohort (approximately 1 week).
- **PCR test** for students and community counterparts entering Module 3 (paid for by Pachaysana).
- **Module Three** in an Eco-Lodge and Community #3 where we carry out the course *Storytelling: Language and Movement*.
- A **mini-module** for students-only. This time is for reflection, processing and finishing pending work (3 to 5 days). Students are offered PCR tests (paid for by Pachaysana) if required or desired for entry to their country or state of residence.
- **Post in-country period** to finish written work. All students have approximately 10 days to turn in any pending work. Extensions may be granted upon request.

Important Notes

- Vaccination rates are high in Ecuador. As of Sept 15, 2021, over 55% of the total population is fully vaccinated and over 70% have received at least one dose. Our research indicates even better numbers in our partner communities where more than 80% of all habitants 16-years-old and up have received at least the first dose. We anticipate that between 80% and 90% of all residents of our partner communities 12-years-old and up will be fully vaccinated by February 2022.
- Students must arrive fully vaccinated with a vaccination record indicating their vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by the FDA (e.g. Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson). The only exception to this requirement is for religious or medical purposes. In such cases, students will be required to sign a release form and assume costs for pre-program quarantining and additional PCR testing. Additional note: unvaccinated students will only be accepted after extensive consultation with the student's home college/university.
- Students must agree to regular PCR COVID testing according to the structure above. Additional tests may be required if people in our inner or extended circles test positive.
- Students are permitted to transition to remote learning at any moment during the semester and refunds will be issued according to the policy below.

TENTATIVE DATES

Online portion of *Identity and Pacha*: **Jan 27 to Feb 2**

Arrival to Quito: **Feb 4**

Orientation: **Feb 5 to 11**

Module 1: **Feb 12 to Mar 5**

Module 2: **Mar 6 to Mar 26**

Excursion: **Mar 27 to Apr 1**

Module 3: **Apr 2 to Apr 23**

Mini-Module: **Apr 24 to Apr 27**

End of In-Country Program: **Apr 27**

All projects and work are due: **May 6**

Optional Pre-Semester Class (*Ecuador: Language, Culture and Justice*)

3-credit Spanish Immersion course

25% online and 75% in-person

Additional cost: \$1850 (depending on number of students, we may reduce this cost)

Costs include tuition for the 3-credit course, all lodging, meals, cultural activities, transportation, COVID-protocols and one two-day excursion.

Online portion: **Jan 17 to Jan 21**

Arrival to Quito: **Jan 22**

Mini Orientation: **Jan 23**

In-Country Instruction: **Jan 24 to Feb 4**

End of Pre-Semester Course: **Sept 4**

Important Note for Pre-Semester students: Because those who participate in this course will pass the 90-day limit for visitors, students will be required to extend their free tourist visas for a cost of \$130.

Prime Factors that have determined our course of action

There are three overarching considerations that led us to choosing our semester's structure and that could lead to potential suspension/cancelation.

1. **State of affairs in Ecuador**, especially in the several provinces and municipal districts where we can carry out programming. The situation is determined by:
 - a. What is the current level of alert from the national and municipal authorities? The alert system in Ecuador is carried out at national and municipal levels by Ecuador's Emergency Operations Center. It is based on reported numbers of Covid cases and levels of occupancy at public hospitals. *Note: as of September 2021, hospitals in Ecuador report regular levels of available beds in hospitalization and ICU's.*
 - b. What measures/protocols have been enacted by national and local authorities over the last 4 to 8 weeks?
 - c. What level of travel advisory is set for Ecuador as evaluated by the U.S. State Department? *Note: currently Ecuador is evaluated as a Level 3 destination.*
 - d. How prevalent are documented cases of additional variants in the provinces and municipal districts where our partner communities and pod-sites are located?
2. Existing science on **Covid transmission by vaccinated individuals**. We use CDC recommendations.
3. Existing science on the **effectiveness of vaccines against newer variants** of Covid. We will monitor disease control centers in the U.S. and abroad.

Triggers for suspending or canceling:

- If Ecuador's health system becomes over-taxed as indicated by the Ecuadorian government passing "red-light" decrees in the provinces or municipal districts where our program is located, then we will immediately survey the private health system and evaluate occupancy levels. If statistics demonstrate that private clinics and hospitals, where student insurance is accepted, are operating at normal capacity, will not suspend or cancel. Rather, we will immediately contact students and partner schools and allow them to make their own decisions.
(Note: In Ecuador, there are three health systems including 2 separate public systems and a robust private health system. Decrees are designed to restrict social engagement and may include curfews and limitations on travel.)
- If existing science suggests the FDA approved vaccines have significantly less effectiveness against a given strain/variant that is widely detected in Ecuador.
- If existing science suggests that vaccinated individuals are likely to transmit a Covid strain that is present in Ecuador.

Costs

TOTAL: \$15,215

Tuition and Fees: \$11,965 - Includes tuition for 12 to 18 credits (transcript from Juniata College), orientation, excursions, community counterpart scholarship, community project fund, COVID-19 special investments (all materials needed for effective sanitization, unexpected quarantine in the case of a positive test, and COVID testing for students and appropriate community members)

Room and Board: \$3,250 - Host family stays (or Pod-stays) including three meals per day and snacks for every day of the program.

Not included: Required COVID PCR test before departure to Ecuador if mandated by the Ecuadorian government (at this time, Ecuador requires a record of being fully vaccinated OR a PCR test to enter the country), International Airfare, international medical or emergency insurance, tourist visa extension cost (approximately \$130) for those who take the pre-semester course or if a student decides to stay in country after our in-country portion of the semester (students can stay in Ecuador for up to 90 days at no cost).

Note: Pachaysana does not require application fees, security deposits, a School of Record fee, and there are no visa costs for stays under 90 days.

Payment Deadlines and Refund Policy (COVID adaptation)

Payment: We will send invoices 60 days prior to the start of the program. Payment of full tuition/fees and room/board is due 30 days prior to the start of the program. Payment plans are available upon request.

Refunds: We offer refunds according to the following schedule and whether the student is withdrawing from the program or moving to remote learning (RL) and completing all coursework online. A transition to RL is available for any student at any time during the semester. We differentiate a student's transition to RL based on who makes the decision, whether the student is asked to transition by Pachaysana or the sending school or whether the student voluntarily makes the decision. Since we will continue with a full load of online courses, the transition to RL does not greatly affect tuition/fees.

Tuition-Fees Refund

Schedule	Student transitions to RL (Pachaysana or school decision)	Student transition to RL (student decision)	Student withdraws from program
15 to 30 days before arrival	20%	15%	100%
1 to 14 days before arrival	15%	10%	95%
After arrival, before completion of orientation	10%	5%	75%
Before reaching the 30 th day of the program	5%	0%	50%
The 30 th day of the program and afterward	0%	0%	0%

Room/Board Refund

Schedule	Student transitions to RL (Pachaysana or school decision)	Student transition to RL (student decision)	Student withdraws from program
15 to 30 days before arrival	100%	100%	100%
1 to 14 days before arrival	95%	95%	95%
After arrival, before completion of orientation	Pro-rated + \$150 fee	Pro-rated + \$250 fee	Pro-rated + \$250 fee
Before reaching the 30 th day of the program	Pro-rated + \$250 fee	Pro-rated + \$350 fee	Pro-rated + \$350 fee
The 30 th day of the program and afterward	Pro-rated + \$400 fee	Pro-rated + \$500 fee	Pro-rated + \$500 fee

Note: Pro-rated is not determined by the total cost divided by the amount of days. Rather, since different kinds of stays over the course of the semester incur different costs, we send a calculation of what funds remain in the students Room & Board account from the day after leaving Pachaysana's official housing. We then subtract the stated fee according to the calendar provided. Fees rise slightly over the semester because we invest part of Room & Board into community projects shortly before we move into the community or pod. Since we transition between communities throughout the semester, our fees reflect those investments.

Program Protocols (Updated: September 15, 2021)

- All students and local participants must sign an agreement which describes the protocols in detail and that require full compliance.
- Regular COVID testing of students and local participants according to our calendar (paid for by Pachaysana).
- All students and local participants agree to take their temperature daily and report it to Pachaysana personnel (individual thermometers provided to each program participant by Pachaysana).
- All learning and living spaces are supplied with disinfectant and sanitization supplies (paid for by Pachaysana) and all participants agree to take part in a regular cleaning schedule. Pod sites operate with less strict disinfecting schedules than community-based learning and living spaces.
- All students and local participants have the right to request that additional protocols be put in place for our cohort. Suggestions are made anonymously, and additions are approved democratically by the participants.
- Bathrooms must have their own disinfectant present 24-hours a day (paid for by Pachaysana)
- All students are required to stay in the community (or pod) for the duration of the module unless they have been given direct authorization from Pachaysana personnel. All independent travel during the in-country portion of the semester is restricted until further notice.
- Unless in pod-sites or unless the community reaches Pachaysana's immunity threshold (currently set at an 80% vaccination rate), mask-wearing is mandatory at all class sessions and other official programmatic activities. (Extra masks are provided to all participants by Pachaysana.)
- Unless in pod-sites or unless the community reaches Pachaysana's immunity threshold, reasonable social distancing, approximately 2 meters, is required for all participants during all programmatic activity.
- All participants are provided with hand sanitizer or a spray bottle of alcohol. When outside of Pachaysana's normal programmatic activity, they are encouraged to disinfect their hands. Pachayana provides the bottles and refills are always available.
- All participants are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before and after all programmatic activity.