Honors Self- Designed Proposal

Complete this proposal **prior** to your experience’s start date and upload it in the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Create an experience (“Add a new record”) in the “Tracking Project” tab and upload your proposal document as an attachment. The deadline for [submitting proposals](http://www.uc.edu/honors/experiences/experiencesubmission.html) is the 5th of each month (excluding July).

Proposals are intended to be well developed plans for your experience. However, experiences are exploratory in nature, and we are flexible with changes throughout the experience. If your experience changes after receiving approval on your proposal, contact your honors advisor to verify the changes still satisfy the requirements of an honors experience.

**Basic Information**  
Full Name: Ravi Vignesh Seker

Title of Project: Engineers Without Borders Nyambogo Water Project

Thematic Area(s): Global Studies and Community Engagement

Expected Start Date: August 8 2016

Expected End Date: August 18 2016

**Guidelines**

1. Proposal submission timeline: Proposals should be submitted at least one month prior to the expected start date of the experience. International experiences require at least two months’ notice. Contact your honors advisor immediately for any exceptions.
2. Proposal length: While the quality of the proposal is most important, strong proposals are typically 3-4 pages single-spaced.
3. Proposal format: Please maintain the proposal format (e.g. headers, layout)
4. Time commitment: Experiences should consist of at least 75-90 hours of preparation, execution, and reflection. This is approximately equivalent to the commitment of honors seminars and pre-approved experiences.

**Requirements for International Travel**

All self-designed international travel experiences require two months’ notice and must be at least one week in length. You will need to provide a detailed itinerary (dates, locations and activities). If participating in independent travel (not with UC faculty, staff or student group), you must also fill out a [Worldwide: Honors Experience application](http://studyabroad.uc.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10217) via UC International.

Additionally, the [Student Travel Policy](http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/about/docs/university_policies/student_travel_policy.pdf) restricts UC-sponsored travel to countries under a [U.S. Department of State Travel Warning](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html). Those who wish to visit a country with a travel warning must seek an [exemption](http://www.uc.edu/international/study-abroad/applying-to-study-abroad/travel-restrictions---exemptions.html) through UC International. Students traveling without a faculty or staff leader must individually request an exemption. ***We cannot allow you to count this travel as an honors experience nor can we give you a grant without an approved exemption.***

1. **Abstract**

*Briefly describe the experience. What makes this experience personally meaningful? What goals do you have for this experience? What is your timeline for this experience?*

*\*If you are proposing an international experience, provide an itinerary.*

*\*\*If you are developing this experience from an existing opportunity (class with a study tour, campus organization, co-op, etc.) that is not already an honors seminar or pre-approved experience, how will you differentiate your experience from what is already required of other students?*

Most of us take running water for granted. We open a tap and, lo and behold, clean, potable water comes gushing out. We go to any establishment that sells food/drink and we’re allowed free water. Water has become so normal to us that nobody stops to wonder if this is the case around the world. Its’s easy for people to sit back and feel sympathy for them halfway across the world, but as a college student with the time and resources available I wanted to do my part to help make a difference any way I could. Therefore, teaming up with EWB (Engineers Without Borders) and SHED (Shirati Health, Education and Development), myself and a group of other member of EWB plan to finish the construction and attend to any final matters to a water supply system designed by EWB over the past two years. This trip is to finish the final stages of the water pump, attend to any concerns by the public and finish a post-project survey. Prior to this survey, the people of the Nyambogo community had to walk for hours to get to any water source in their radius, only to get water infested with diseases such as malaria and schisto. This water pump project will eliminate these problems by providing this community with clean, accessible water.

This experience means a lot to me because of the extent to which this project benefits people. For years I have done community service projects such as volunteering for events, running marathons, organizing charity foundations and helping with donations; however I always felt that I’ve only ever supported my own community and never spread my wings. This project will help make a global change, instead of restricting myself to my community. I’ve always enjoyed giving help to where help is needed and this project will provide me with the opportunity to make a difference on an international level. I hope this project will make all the water we take for granted as accessible is to them as it is to us.

ITINERARY

August 8 - Depart the US

August 9 - Arrive and Stay Overnight in Nairobi

August 10 - Drive to Shirati, Tanzania and Stay with SHED for the Next 9 Nights

August 11 - Work with villagers near Shirati, Tanzania

August 12 - Work with villagers near Shirati, Tanzania

August 13 - Work with villagers near Shirati, Tanzania

August 14 - Work with villagers near Shirati, Tanzania

August 15 - Work with villagers near Shirati, Tanzania

August 16 - Work with villagers near Shirati, Tanzania

August 17 - Depart Shirati and Drive to Mara Simba Safari Lodge

August 18 - Morning Safari, Leisure Activities, and Afternoon Safari

August 19 - Drive to Nairobi and Fly Out of Nairobi

August 20 - Arrive Back in the US

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Brief description of the experience  Personal connection to the experience  Identified goals for the experience  Timeline from start to finish  \*Itinerary (international experiences only)  \*\*Explanation of differentiated experience from what is required of other students | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Experience Advisor**

*Identify an experience advisor and provide their contact information. Explain why you chose this person and how you plan to utilize your advisor for this experience.*

Note: Advisor(s) should have knowledge or expertise in an area related to the experience. Honors advisors, undergraduate students, and family members cannot be experience advisors.

Chris Auffrey

[chris.auffrey@uc.edu](mailto:chris.auffrey@uc.edu)

After thorough research, I concluded Chris Auffrey would be the best experience advisor for my trip to Tanzania. My friend, who is also in the Honors Program, has taken his Economics and Planning and told he was extremely approachable. I also learned he has considerable experience abroad, so I could ask him what I need to do to mentally and physically prepare myself for my period of time abroad. If I have any questions, his experience and expertise should be a major help in making sure there is not as much confusion and chaos during this experience.

I plan to meet with Professor Auffrey during office hours or by scheduling an appointment with him through the Starfish application on Blackboard. Since this trip will be further in to next year, I plan to schedule multiple appointments over the course of the spring semester. However, I plan to schedule an appointment for this semester to determine the level of dedication an undertaking like this would require and to gain information on any resources such as books or movies I can watch over winter break to prepare for my stay abroad.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Experience advisor name and contact information  Description of why advisor was selected  Specific plans to engage with advisor | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Connection to Learning Outcomes**

*List 3* [*learning outcomes*](#ThematicAreas) *from any thematic area(s). Provide specific activities you plan to engage in to help you make progress towards the chosen learning outcomes. Describe how you expect each activity to help your progress. Include an estimated time commitment for those activities.*

* The main purpose of this expedition is to finally meet the needs of the Nyambogo community’s needs and finally solve their emerging water crisis. This will be done by not just building this water pump, but also by creating a possible water delivery system, building a guard shack for those taking care of the pump, erecting fences to protect the pumps from cattle and bandits and other areas where we may be of any assistance. Therefore my first learning objective would be to identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals. The point of all these years of trips and building is to finally make this community a healthier, more water-accessible village when compared to a village that used to have to hike many miles every day for any sort of water to use. In addition, this water will be much cleaner than the water they were previously drinking; water that was littered with diseases such as malaria, schisto and stomach problems. The new proximity of the pump to villagers will also save numerous hours of trekking to obtain a single bucket of water. Overall, all the previous obstacles and restrictions faced by the villagers will be eliminated as far as possible to hopefully increase their quality of life due to lack of a basic human need.
* Even though our main focus is to provide the village of Nyambogo with a source of clean, running water, we would prefer they didn’t rely on our help all the time. We would provide the idea to them, but we will also teach them how to manipulate it and apply it without us holding their hands every step of the way. So my second learning objective would be to explain how education, advocacy, mobilization, or public policy can influence social issues and transform communities. EWB and SHED would help build this water pump, but its operation and maintenance will be managed solely by the people of Nyambogo. In our last few days in Nyambogo, we intend to teach the people a variety of things to help them become more independent when it comes to matters concerning the water pump. We intend to have a group of the community observing the process of the establishment of the pump and then host an information session to explain how to maintain, clean and preserve this pump without our help. In addition, we will provide them with the schematics and plans for a guard shack and a fence which will gentrify this pump for security purposes so they can build these themselves instead of having EWB build everything. We intend to help them organize a small fee for using the pump to pay for the maintenance of the pump without relying on NGO help forever. Through all these practices, the community is now educated in the ways of independency when it comes to new ideas and come out at the end as a smarter community.
* A real learning experience for me would be this entire new chapter in my life where I travel to a country at a considerably lower economic level compared to the country I come from. Therefore my third learning objective would be to demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity by acknowledging the impact of their own identity and the experience of social norms, customs, or beliefs that are different from their own. Being a very open-minded and curious person, I want this to experience to help me as much as it would help the community of Nyambogo. I intend to study the cultures, lifestyles and beliefs shared by the people and compare and contrast them with the ways of the western world. This is going to be done in the form of interviews that I will either record on film or write down depending on availability. I have allocated our final day of helping the people of Shirati to interview some of the local people about questions concerning their life in Nyambogo and how content they are right now. I will also question how much they know about Western culture to analyze if there is any Western influence present in this community. Overall, I will not only leave this experience with a feeling of accomplishment, but also a broader understanding of life outside cities to more under-privileged areas.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  3 learning outcomes explicitly identified from any thematic area(s)  Examples of activities and explanation of how each will assist the progress towards the chosen learning outcome  Estimated time commitment for each activity | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Academic Resources Connected to the Learning Outcomes**

*List 1-2 academic resources you plan to use to enhance your understanding of the learning outcomes. Explain how each resource connects to your learning outcome(s) and helps you execute your experience. Please include the title and author/creator for each resource.*

Note: Academic resources are professional works that can be used to assist your understanding of the topic. Some examples are books, documentaries, videos, or research journals.

* My first resource would be to read the book titled “The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture: Tanzania” under the *Culture Smart!* Book series. This book is available on Amazon for purchase. This book will help me learn common courtesies, basic manners and sensitive topics to talk about in West Africa so I do not arrive completely oblivious to the culture of the land I will be staying in for the next 12 days.
* My second resource would be the travel reports and journals written by those in EWB who have already visited this water pump site in Nyambogo. These travel reports include detailed steps of work done each day at the well site, complimented by pictures and other diagrams. Other documents I will review include interviews already conducted with the people and official forms and documents signed concerning the water pump. These documents will help me gain a broader understanding of the project and how it is currently progressing prior to my visit instead of going in to the well site information-blind. All these files are available on a Google Drive for the EWB committee, all of which I can access.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  1-2 academic resources connected to the learning outcomes  Title and author of each resource  Description of how resources will help make progress towards learning outcomes and execution of experience | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **On-going Reflection**

*The on-going reflection should help you process the experience and progress toward your chosen learning outcomes. Describe your method for reflecting throughout the experience. Indicate specific reflection questions/topics you plan to use to guide your reflective process.*

Note: A variety of methods can be used for on-going reflection. Some examples are videos, drawings, blogs, songs, and journals. Reflection topics to consider include your ideas/insights about the experience, connection to other areas of involvement, and your progress towards the learning outcomes.

For my primary source of recording my experiences, I intend to write down daily journal entries in a book I will be taking there. These journal entries will include the progression of the well site including any actions done today, obstacles faced during the construction, new data acquired and any other constraints or benefits experienced in the work. I will also add sections in my journal for something new I learned on each day about the culture, people and atmosphere. In addition to the journals, I will also create a series of daily vlogs which I can edit each night. These vlogs will show the hands-on work being done, the atmosphere of the work site, the people and places and may even feature some direct interviews with the local folk.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Method for ongoing reflection  Reflection questions/topics clearly specified | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Sharing Your Learning**

*Describe how you plan to actively share what you’ve taken away from this experience with a targeted audience. Explain why you chose this specific audience.*

Note: While social media can be an effective platform for sharing, only posting on your personal learning portfolio or social media account(s) does not reach a targeted audience.

The bulk of this trip is mostly engineering and science related and so my target audience would be engineering majors whom I could tempt into pursuing volunteer projects such as this one. Firstly, my task would be to create a presentation of my findings and recount my adventures in Tanzania including interactions with the local community and brief overviews of the actual project. Additionally, I intend to make a brief compilation of my daily vlogs to present to my audience so they can see exactly where and how I worked. My first meeting would be with the University Of Cincinnati Chapter Of Engineers Without Borders as they were the entire backbone to the project. This would encourage incoming students to volunteer to go on new projects and apply their engineering knowledge in the real world. The next meeting would be with a larger audience of engineers, specifically the College of Engineering and Applied Science Tribunal. This shows them what other engineers just like them are currently undertaking and would motivate them to join EWB and maybe even volunteer for one of these projects just like I did,.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  At least one method to actively share take-away learning from the experience  A specific audience and why the audience was selected | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Budget (if applicable)**

*Provide an itemized budget and indicate your source for cost information.*

*\*If you are engaged in an unpaid internship or research, please indicate the number of weeks and hours per week you plan to participate.*

The following budget was provided to us by VLOP (Village Life Outreach Project) who works with EWB to determine costs and other miscellaneous prices for projects overseas.

Total budget cost (developed by Village Life Outreach Project): $3,800

Cost Breakdown:

Airfare = $1,800

Ground Transportation in Africa = $300

Kenyan Visa = $40

Tanzania Visa = $100

Tanzania Immigration Fees = $200

Room & Board in Nairobi = $100

Room & Board in Tanzania = $300

Room & Board on Safari = $300

Safari Park Fees = $160

Additional Expenses (Translators, Water, Meals, Supplies, etc.) = $500

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Notes:  Detailed budget of expenditures with sources to justify budget estimates  \*Indicates the number of hours per week and number of weeks of participation | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

**Thematic Area Learning Outcomes**

**Learning Outcomes for the Community Engagement Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals.
* Develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration.
* Articulate the purpose of service on a social issue or public policy and how service mutually enhances individual growth and the common good.
* Explain how education, advocacy, mobilization, or public policy can influence social issues and transform communities.

**Learning Outcomes for the Creativity Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Discover new techniques to gain knowledge, consider options, make new connections, and ask questions.
* Explore a new creative competency/medium or seek new ways to engage an existing competency/medium.
* Understand and optimize the use of people, technology, physical resources or community in a creative process.
* Articulate the broader significance of a creative project and the value of its contributions.

**Learning Outcomes for the Global Studies Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Develop practical travel skills that promote safe, stimulating, and productive travel throughout your life.
* Summarize the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues.
* Articulate the interdependence of professional fields to address current and impending global issues such as technology, the environment, human rights, or politics.
* Demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity by acknowledging the impact of their own identity and the experience of social norms, customs, or beliefs that are different from their own.
* Demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity.

**Learning Outcomes for the Leadership Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Formulate and manage a shared vision and develop goals towards its achievement.
* Motivate and collaborate effectively with others towards completion of shared projects or goals.
* Develop strategies to identify and respond to challenges and obstacles.
* Identify personal strengths and areas of growth and evaluate opportunities to maximize skills and abilities.
* Synthesize the current trends related to a specific issue or field and evaluate how thought-leaders are currently addressing them.

**Learning Outcomes for the Research Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Demonstrate the ability to locate, interpret, and critically evaluate primary sources appropriate to field.
* Identify and apply appropriate methods to collect and organize data for analysis.
* Analyze and interpret the meaning of results.
* Produce dissemination appropriate to the field in order to share the results or impact of the research.
* Articulate the broader significance of the research project and its relationship to other fields, research and ideas.