**Rehearsing Change: Empowering Locally, Educating Globally**

**Spring and Summer 2021**

**Official Student Application**

Before proceeding with the application, please read the following:

1. Rehearsing Change has limited space available. We recommend sending in your application as early as possible. We accept most students via our early-acceptance program (see below).
2. Rehearsing Change requires a “medium-high” level of conversational Spanish, which usually means the student has completed 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or passes our Spanish proficiency video conference call.
3. Our School of Record is Juniata College (PA), from which all students will receive an official transcript. It is extremely important that each student speak with his/her study abroad office to assure that Juniata College credits will transfer to your institution. It is possible that your institution will require a petition for you to participate in our program.

An application is considered complete upon receipt of this form (Pages 2 & 3) and the following documentation:

* Official or Unofficial Transcripts (please include all university level transcripts).
* Copy of your Passport photo page, or copy of your passport application.
* 2 or 3 letters of recommendation
* Acceptance of Code of Conduct & Health Insurance Requirements (Page 4)
* Declaration of Health (Page 5)
* Signed form declaring your understanding of the application and rights regarding recommendations (Page 8)
* A written essay (750 to 1500 words) explaining why you want to study with Rehearsing Change. You may write in English or Spanish, but please include the following:
  + A brief personal history and how that relates to Rehearsing Change.
  + A brief academic history, highlighting classes and other experiences that have prepared you for Rehearsing Change.
  + Personal and academic goals. What do you want to learn during the semester?
  + Your experiences in dealing with cultural and/or social differences
  + What is unique about you? What can you (or do you want to) contribute to the cohort?
  + In summary, we want to hear your story and how this story relates to your academic experiences so far. How do you envision Rehearsing Change being part of this story and how will you be part of Rehearsing Change’s story? Please do not consider this an academic exercise or write what you think we want to hear. Be honest, be creative and have fun.

Please complete with legible handwriting, or type.

**Personal Information**

Name (as written in your Passport) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

University or College Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major & Minor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Temporary Address (if different from permanent) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Female \_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Non-binary/third gender \_\_\_ Prefer to self-describe \_\_\_ Prefer not to say\_\_\_

Birth date (Month/Day/Year) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (EC) Person \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ EC Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

EC Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Spring Semester 2021 (Late January – Late April)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Summer Semester 2021 (Late May – Mid August)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Application for later period (Taking into consideration the uncertainty produced by COVID-19, we accept pre-applications for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.)

¿How do you rate your level of overall Spanish, from 1 to 9? (Beginning: 1 to 3; Intermediate: 4 to 6; Advanced: 7 to 9. 1 represents early beginner level and a 9 is fluency.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What other Spanish-learning experiences do you expect to have before beginning Rehearsing Change (or share any comments with regards to your Spanish level/abilities)?

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How did you hear about Rehearsing Change?

\_\_\_Faculty/staff at my college

\_\_\_From a previous Rehearsing Change student

\_\_\_From the Rehearsing Change/Pachaysana website, social media or promotional materials

\_\_\_From the USFQ website or promotional materials

\_\_\_From a Pachaysana visit to your campus

\_\_\_From a USFQ visit to your campus

\_\_\_Other (Please explain) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Rehearsing Change Code of Conduct**

Rehearsing Change demands that students live in challenging conditions, including immersion into a different culture. Due to our one-of-a-kind program, there is a strict code of conduct that all accepted students are expected to acknowledge. Following are the most important notes of that code. We ask you to initial various statements as a means of acknowledging the important code before acceptance into the program. By initialing and signing the application you agree to abide by this code and acknowledge that failure to do so could result in your removal from the program.

1. Obey all laws and ordinances of the Ecuadorian government and host community.
2. Respect yourself and others, including faculty, staff, fellow students and community members. Rehearsing Change does not tolerate rude, discriminatory and/or harassing language or behavior.
3. Refrain from operating motorized vehicles, including automobiles, motorcycles, and scooters.
4. Alcohol abuse that results in inappropriate behaviors can lead to expulsion from the program
5. The use, purchase, and/or sale of illegal drugs is absolutely prohibited.
6. Engaging in romantic/sexual relationships with a member of our host community is strictly prohibited.

**Please initial in the spaces provided:**

\_\_\_\_ I understand that acceptance to Rehearsing Change is not guaranteed.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that Rehearsing Change requires students to live in challenging conditions (similar to those of Peace Corps volunteers, yet with resident coordinators present 24 hours per day)

\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will be expected to adapt to a community lifestyle, including diet (notwithstanding special dietary needs such as vegetarianism, gluten or dairy free, etc).

\_\_\_\_ I will fully respect and honor community practices and traditions.

\_\_\_\_ I will respect the diversity of beliefs, orientations and practices of my fellow international students.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that failure to respect diverse beliefs / practices could result in my removal from the program.

\_\_\_\_ Per request of the host community, I understand that international students and local community members are not allowed to engage in romantic/sexual relationships. I will be respectful of this request and I understand that acting contrarily could result in my removal from the program.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will need to contract (personally or via my college/university) health/emergency insurance with the minimum specifications indicated on Page 6 of this application.

Do you require especial accommodations (hearing, visual, other)? Please note that we cannot accommodate for all needs in every semester due to the limited infrastructure of our host communities (Yes or No): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you answered *Yes*, please explain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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You will be asked to complete a Declaration of Health below. While most health concerns/problems will not hinder your participation in the program, we ask you to note any complications that we should have on record (asthma, diabetes, recent injuries, etc.). All information is confidential and is only utilized with your authorization in our ongoing communications, so as to make recommendations related to daily life in a given partner community. For example, some partner communities are at a high altitude, which can complicate certain health conditions:

**Declaration of Health**

Please be advised that answers to the below questions do not affect acceptance into the program; rather, we use them to engage in an honest dialogue with you regarding potential risks that you may face while studying abroad. After acceptance into the program, you will be sent a health certificate form that must be completed by a physician and you.

1. I understand that mild physical, emotional and psychological conditions can become serious under the stresses of life while studying abroad, and it is important that Rehearsing Change personnel be forewarned of any medical or emotional problems, past or current, which might affect you in a foreign study and/or community-based context. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
2. I understand there are health challenges related to living in (or visiting) rural and Amazon-based communities, including, but not limited to, reactions to insect/animal bites, allergies, the possible effects of a humid climate, and reactions to a change in diet. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
3. Do you have any allergies that may be affected while studying abroad with Rehearsing Change?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No. If *Yes*, please let us know so that we can offer you feedback.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Are you on a restricted diet (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free, kosher, etc)? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No. If *Yes*, please explain so that we may offer our feedback. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. I understand that it is my responsibility to consult with my physician regarding appropriate vaccines, medications and health care needs regarding my time with Rehearsing Change \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
2. Please note any conditions that we should be aware of:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Medical and Emergency Insurance**

Per requirements by the Ecuadorian government, students are required to secure international health and accident insurance that includes:

* emergency medical evacuation up to $250,000
* repatriation up to $50,000
* accidental death and dismemberment up to $15,000
* emergency reunion up to $12,500
* mental health care
* coverage of pre-existing conditions

Important Note: Please consult with your home university, as almost all US institutions maintain international emergency insurance (SOS International, CISI, International On-Call, etc.) that will cover you in the case of major emergencies, evacuations, etc. If not, it is the student’s responsibility to purchase a plan, which can be as inexpensive as $50 per month while abroad.

**Reference/Recommendation Instructions**

**Instructions for Applicant:**

You must submit two academic references. We suggest that one be a professor familiar with your academic achievement as related to work in a specific course (or courses), and the other be your academic advisor, or someone who has broader knowledge of your educational history and personal learning goals. While not required, we highly recommend a third reference, who is someone that can focus on your character, community service and/or language ability. Please copy/paste/email the following instructions to your references.

(If you have turned in all the materials listed on the page 9, we will send you an email to confirm once we have received the two required references.)

**Instructions to Recommender:**

Rehearsing Change is a rigorous interdisciplinary program that expects students to learn in a variety of settings and through diverse methodologies. In addition to traditional classroom-based learning, students engage in daily field-based learning. They are required to study and work closely with local counterparts. The counterparts have considerably less traditional academic preparation and can offer a dramatically different cultural perspective. Finally, the majority of the semester is community-based, in which students live with host families in a small rural community with limited amenities. Such a challenging situation requires that our students demonstrate a balance of academic skill, cultural sensitivity and personal fortitude.

We request your candid appraisal in enabling us to determine whether the applicant is appropriate for our program. We also consider the references valuable tools for us to assist the student obtain the most from the experience. In addition to covering the applicant’s academic qualities, we request that you comment, to the best of your knowledge, on his or her communication skills, initiative, multicultural/cross-cultural ability (or potential), experience (or promise) in confronting challenges and/or managing unusual/uncomfortable situations, aptitude for working in groups and whether you believe that he or she uses sound judgment.

Please write a letter and send it to us on letterhead from your professional email address. If sent from your professional email address, documents can be digital, meaning letters need not be printed, signed and scanned. If they come from a personal email address, we ask that you do print/sign/scan. We prefer PDF to Word documents when possible.

Please send letters with to [info@rehearsingchange.org](mailto:info@rehearsingchange.org)

Subject heading should be “Reference-STUDENT LAST NAME-HOME COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY”

Please direct your inquiries to the same email address with the subject heading “Inquiry RC Reference”

**Reference Form**

Applicant, please write the name, title and email of your 2 or 3 references. Below each one, please declare your rights of access to the recommendation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name Title Email

\_\_\_ I do waive my right to access this recommendation. \_\_\_ I do NOT waive my right to access this recommendation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name Title Email

\_\_\_ I do waive my right to access this recommendation. \_\_\_ I do NOT waive my right to access this recommendation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name Title Email

\_\_\_ I do waive my right to access this recommendation. \_\_\_ I do NOT waive my right to access this recommendation.

**Signed Statement**

Since we do our best to reduce all paper printing, we ask you to either insert a digital signature below, or to sign this page by printing, scanning and emailing with the rest of your application as a means of declaring that 1) you have read and understand this application, 2) agree to abide by the Pachsayana and host community codes of conduct, and 3) all sections with your initials or X’s were completed by you, the applicant. Please sign and date.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature Date**

Now proceed to the checklist to make sure your application is complete. SUERTE!

**Final Checklist**

This tool is designed to make sure you have turned in all the required documents. All documents should be mailed to [info@rehearsingchange.org](mailto:info@rehearsingchange.org) with the following subject heading: “RC App-STUDENT LAST NAME-STUDENT HOME UNIVERSITY.” Within 3 business days, we will send you a confirmation email stating we have received your application.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages 2-5 of this application. You are not required to print/scan/email these pages. Simply fill out the forms with text, X’s in the YES/NO spaces and initials where requested as a Word document, and return it to us via email.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page 8 of this application. You ARE required to print/scan/email this page, as it contains your signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Copies of official or unoffical transcripts

\_\_\_\_\_ Scanned copy of the photo page of your passport (or application for a passport)

\_\_\_\_\_ Personal Essay

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 to 3 letters of recommendation

**Application Fee:**

We have no application fee.

**Important Dates**

For spring 2021, applications should be received by October 15, 2020; however, due to conditions on the ground, we are likely to receive applications well into November. Applicants will know if they are accepted within two weeks of submitting their application. For summer 2021, applications should be received by April 15, 2021 and will also know about acceptance within two weeks of submission.

If you seek “last minute” admission, please email us at [info@rehearsingchange.org](mailto:info@rehearsingchange.org) to see if we have available space.