Rehearsing Change: Pachaysana's Spring and Summer 2021 Semester Plans

Pachaysana will offer **Spring 2021** and **Summer 2021** semesters of [Rehearsing Change]. Each semester, carefully designed with our community partners, will be structured to provide the safest experience for students and local participants. Since our cohorts are small, we will also closely collaborate with our university partners to establish an accepted list of protocols for everyone in the program. That being said, because of the everchanging realities on the ground (in Ecuador and the United States), we reserve the right to make changes to protocols on short notice. Approximately two months prior to the given term, we will send a list of proposed protocols ("working protocols") to our partners that have accepted students for the coming semester and request their feedback. A final list of protocols ("final protocols") will be issued one month prior to the beginning of the program. At the bottom of this document you will find our "working protocols" that we are developing with host communities.

Program Structure: Because we live in high-stress times, and to not overwhelm students and host communities, we are electing to reduce the in-person portion of our semesters to under 90 days (see calendar below). Reducing the time in country also allows Pachaysana to divert funds to offset costs for quarantines, regular COVID testing, professional cleaning/disinfecting and investing in additional on-site health and safety resources without raising tuition or program fees. Academically, this results in converting one of our courses, *Identity and Pacha*, to an online format.

The program structure we are sharing is our **Plan A**; however, we reserve the right to move to *Plan B*, which is described below. For both Spring and Summer, we operate the programs according to **ten phases**.

- **Phase 1:** is dedicated to Online Instruction of *Identity and Pacha* to be finished during Phase 2. Please refer to this [video] to learn about our approach to online courses
- **Phase 2** is arrival to Quito where we begin with a structured quarantine and program orientation*, during which students also finish the online course from Phase 1.
- **Phase 3**** is *Storytelling: Language and Movement* or *Theatre for Social Change* in Pintag (with "Part 1" of both *Design and Evaluation of Sustainable Community Projects* and *Independent Studies*) for a period of three weeks.
- **Phase 4** is a short period in Pintag during which we require COVID tests and wait for results before transitioning to the Mariscal.
- **Phase 5*** is *Storytelling: Language and Movement* or *Theatre for Social Change* in Mariscal (with "Part 2" of *Design and Evaluation of Sustainable Community Projects* and *Independent Studies*) for three weeks.
- **Phase 6** is another period of COVID testing, in the Mariscal.
- **Phase 7** is an excursion to a self-contained research station in the Amazon or Andes.
- **Phase 8** is another period of COVID testing, while maintaining group isolation near the excursion site.
- **Phase 9** is dedicated to finishing up *Projects* class.
- **Phase 10** is flex time, during which students can plan to stay in Pintag and relax before going home or they can head home immediately. Pachaysana takes students to the airport where our program ends; however, if students choose to arrange for their own transportation or stay in country, our programming ends on the final date mentioned in the calendar, or as soon as they leave Pintag.

* If deemed appropriate by WHO and CDC standards, and since it is permissible by Ecuadorian law, we may limit the quarantine from 14 to 8 days and combine it with a PCR COVID test. Current studies show

that it takes approximately 5 days for COVID to show itself on the PCR test. Thus, the optional plan will be to remain in quarantine for 5 days, administer the test and then wait two days for the results.

** In each semester, Pintag and Mariscal will host one of the two Methodology-based courses: *Storytelling* or *Theatre*

Structured Quarantine: Students will stay at a local hostel, lodge or retreat center as a group, accompanied by one Pachaysana team member who coordinates all logistics and assures that social distancing norms are respected. The lodging will include private rooms and bathrooms for each student, wifi, commons areas and outdoors areas such as gardens.

COVID Testing: Pachaysana works with the laboratory of the Universidad de las Americas for home-testing, meaning the technicians go to the students, whether in our partner communities or the quarantine site, and results are returned in no more than 48-hours. If students test positive for COVID at any time during the semester, they will be quarantined in an appropriate site where medical professionals can visit and provide minor medical treatment. If they should require hospitalization, they will be taken to one of several sites designated for COVID patients.

Plan B (Pod-style learning): If Pachaysana and/or our partner communities decide that the current situation does not allow for community-based programming that meets our strict health and safety standards, we will revert to "Pod-style" learning. Following the same calendar below, instead of living and learning in the partner communities, students will be joined by community counterparts in lodges, farms or retreat centers in the Andes or Amazon for the two indicated modules (currently referred to as *Pintag* and *Marisal*). All will go through the rigid testing process already described and be required to have a negative result to enter our "pod". The pod sites will be geographically isolated, thus prohibiting participants from physically contacting people outside of the pod; yet, we will have ground transportation present 24/7 for emergencies. Classes will be carried out in the pod as a cohort and because there will be no coming and going from the pod, we will loosen social distancing requirements. Pod-style learning may require us to cancel the longer excursion, replacing it with several short excursions, such as hiking and camping as a pod. *Note: While we are confident that Plan A will be available for our summer semester, we believe that Plan B is more likely for the spring.*

Costs

TOTAL: $14,915

Tuition and Fees: $11,765 - Includes tuition for 12 to 15 credits (transcript from Juniata College), orientation, excursions, community counterpart scholarship, community project fund, COVID-19 special investments (structured quarantine, unexpected quarantine in the case of a positive test, and COVID testing for students and appropriate community members)

Room and Board: $3,150 - 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 (at this time, Ecuador requires a PCR test to enter the country), International Airfare, international medical or emergency insurance

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

Dates:

> **Spring Semester**: Jan 18 to May 3 (In-Country component from Jan 30 to Apr 25)
> **Summer Semester:** May 17 to Aug 23 (In-Country component from May 29 to Aug 16)

Spring 2021 Calendar		
	Start Date	**End Date**
1. Online Course (*Identity*)	Jan 18	Jan 29
2. Orientation, Finish Online Course, Quarantine	Jan 30	Feb 13
3. Pintag (Methodology-based course + Part 1 of *Projects* and *Independent Studies*)	Feb 14	Mar 7
4. COVID Testing, work on Independent Studies	Mar 8	Mar 11
5. Mariscal (Methodology-based course + Part 2 of *Projects* and *Ind Studies*)	Mar 12	Apr 4
6. COVID Testing, work on *Independent Studies*	Apr 4	Apr 7
7. Excursion	Apr 8	Apr 12
8. COVID Testing, work on *Independent Studies*	Apr 13	Apr 16
9. Return Pintag and Finish *Projects* Class	Apr 17	Apr 22
10. Flex Time (students can return any time) - Program officially ends on April 25	Apr 23	Apr 25
POST: Students finish up pending written assignments – All work is due on May 3	April 26	May 3
Total Days in Country:		**84 to 86**
Summer 2021 Calendar		
	Start Date	**End Date**
1. Online Course (*Identity*)	May 17	May 28
2. Orientation, Finish Online Course, Quarantine	May 29	June 12
3. Pintag (Methodology-based course + Part 1 of *Projects* and *Independent Studies*)	June 13	Jul 4
4. COVID Testing, work on Independent Studies	Jul 5	Jul 8
5. Mariscal (Methodology-based course + Part 2 of *Projects* and *Ind Studies*)	Jul 9	Aug 1
6. COVID Testing, work on *Independent Studies*	Aug 2	Aug 5
7. Excursion	Aug 6	Aug 10
8. COVID Testing, work on *Independent Studies*	Aug 11	Aug 14
9. Return Pintag and Finish *Projects* Class	Aug 15	Aug 20
10. Flex Time (students can return any time) - Program officially ends on Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 22
POST: Students finish up pending written assignments – All work is due on Aug 31	Aug 23	Aug 30
Total Days in Country:		**84 to 86**

NOTES:

1. Students can choose to depart any time after the "Mariscal" module and complete the *Projects* course and *Independent Studies* virtually. In other words, spring students could return home as early as April 7, and summer students could return home as early as August 5.
2. Plan B implementation implies three basic pod-style modules: a) Structured Quarantine, which includes the orientation and *Identity* class, b) Module 1 with local community counterparts (labeled as "Pintag" above), and c) Module 2 with a second group of local community counterparts (labeled as "Mariscal" above)
3. Dates will change slightly if we are able to move from a 14-day to 8-day structured quarantine.
4. The transcript for Summer term students will likely come out as "Spring 2021"

"Working" Program Protocols (Updated: Sept 14 2020)

We are currently developing protocols with our partner communities of Pintag and La Mariscal, which will take on different forms if we initiate Plan B. This is not a final list of protocols and anticipate making changes every two to three weeks until final protocols are created. The list represents what we call "working protocols," which will be sent to all our university partners with accepted students for the Spring and Summer 2021 semesters for their feedback. We will then adapt the protocols and create "final protocols," which will be made official no less than one month before the beginning of the program. Our "working protocols" include the following at the present time:

- Signed agreements for all students and local participants which describe the protocols in detail and that requires full compliance.
- Regular COVID testing of students, community counterparts and host families according to the provided calendar. For Plan B, our pod sites are operated by a small staff that lives at the site, and we will also provide tests for their staff. (Paid for by Pachaysana)
- All living quarters and learning spaces must be professionally disinfected before and after the module. (Paid for by Pachaysana)
- All host families (and pod sites) are provided with sufficient disinfectant (paid for by Pachaysana) for daily maintenance and according to the signed agreement will need to disinfect the home (or living quarters) no less than once per day.
- Bathrooms must have their own disinfectant present 24-hours a day. (paid for by Pachaysana)
- All class areas are cleaned and disinfected before and after the programmatic activity.
- All program participants are required to stay in the community (or pod) for the duration of the module. Any emergency travel must be reported to Pachaysana.
- Mask-wearing is mandatory at all class sessions and other programmatic activities. (Extra masks are provided to all participants by Pachaysana.)
- Reasonable social distancing, approximately 2 meters of physical distance, is required for all participants during all programmatic activity.
- Host families who need to maintain regular interactions with people from sensitive populations (elderly, people with known immunity deficiencies, etc.) during the module will not be allowed to participate.
- All participants must always carry hand sanitizer and a spray bottle of alcohol with them (provided by Pachaysana). When outside of Pachaysana's normal programmatic activity, they are encouraged to disinfect surfaces before touching them.
- All participants must wash or sanitize their hands before and after all programmatic activity
- All students are provided single occupancy rooms with host families