

Summer



Study Abroad in Sustainable Communities

# Peru

## Ecology, Indigenous Spirituality and Spanish in the High Amazon

Journey to Peru’s Andean Amazon to learn firsthand from local communities living lightly with their local environment. Experience indigenous Quechua principles of cultural autonomy and respect of ancient practices that ‘talk back’ to global systems of capitalism and politics, and assert the wisdom of a worldview that values the ‘other-than-human’ living world of plants, animals and spiritual energies. Improve your skills in Spanish or learn introductory Quechua through an intensive language immersion—which will prepare you to contribute meaningfully to community service projects that nurture agricultural biodiversity, sustainable environmental action, and right livelihood.



### Program Highlights

- ☀ Live in Quechua villages and participate in native agricultural and daily rituals
- ☀ Engage with local families in preparations for Lamas’ spectacular Saint’s Day Festival
- ☀ Work with locals in the High Amazon on a cutting-edge *Chacra Huerto* soil regeneration project
- ☀ Learn about native Shamanic belief systems and experience a guided Quechua contemplative retreat
- ☀ Visit indigenous sites of cultural and ecological importance
- ☀ Work with Sachamama Center, dedicated to regenerating the Peruvian Cloud Forest, local healing traditions, and organic, sustainable and fair justice food production
- ☀ Take your Spanish to the next level and learn basic Quechua

### Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 8 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts Amherst



Summer: Six weeks. . . . . see Website for dates

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst .



## Sachamama Center



Sachamama Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to the bio-cultural regeneration of the region in collaboration with the indigenous Kichwa-Lamistas, the descendants of pre-Columbian inhabitants. The Center's mission is to integrate politics and spirituality, activism and scholarship, bio-cultural regeneration and fair economic practices, with the goal of nurturing inter-cultural dialogue. An educational, research and retreat Center, Sachamama Center projects include:

The Chacra-Huerto Project (recreating the pre-Colombian fertile soil of the Amazon) and Mental Health and Shamanic Spirituality and Healing, in addition to the Living Routes program.



### Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

March 15

### Costs (subject to change)

Tuition, room & board, travel insurance, and in-country travel . . . . .see Website  
UMassAmherst credit . . . . . included

## Faculty

### Frédérique Apffel-Marglin, Ph.D., Anthropology, Brandeis University

Emerita Professor of Anthropology at Smith College, Apffel-Marglin has done two decades of fieldwork in India, Bolivia, and in Peru, where she now directs an NGO. From 1985 - 91, she was co-director with the Harvard economist Stephen Marglin at the World Institute for Economics Research (WIDER), part of the UN University in Helsinki, Finland. Apffel-Marglin has authored some 50 published articles and authored and co-edited numerous books and chapters in her areas of specialization: religion, gender; critiques of development; science studies and indigenous traditions and ecology. She is director and founder of this program.

### Liz Gruenfeld, Ph.D. (Current Student), School of Social Work, Boston College

Ed.M. Arts Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

At Harvard, she specialized in arts-based approaches to working with children and communities affected by trauma, violence, and displacement. Since then, she has worked with NGOs doing teacher training, youth work, and research. With University of the Middle East Project, she works at the intersection of arts education and post-conflict education, training teachers in Lebanon, Morocco, and Egypt. She has published on using the arts to develop critical thinking, literacy, and psychosocial skills. She bases her teaching and leadership on concepts of mutual learning, deep reflection, and holistic education.

### Barbara Galinda Rodrigues, M.A., Spanish and Portuguese Literature and Theory, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil

Rodrigues received her licenciatura in Spanish and Portuguese from the Federal University of Pernambuco in Brazil in 2007 and her masters in Theory of Literature with a specialization in Spanish language and literature from the same university in 2010. Her other areas of interest are: comparative literature, linguistics, and anthropology. She is currently assistant professor in the undergraduate course in Spanish literature with distance education program at the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil. Rodrigues has published several essays on the Peruvian authors José María Arguedas and Mario Vargas Llosa.

## Courses

### Ecology, Community, and Indigenous Spirituality in the High Amazon (Anthropology 398P).....4cr

This course is designed to give students a Kechwa-Lamista experience of how indigenous peoples of the Peruvian High Amazon understand and live the links between ecological, spiritual, and community health. Students live in a Kechwa-Lamista small community, and work with an Indigenous organic farmers' association on an alternative to itinerant slash and burn agriculture.

Seminars prepare students for these immersion experiences while grounding their encounter in a political history of the region and the Kechwa-Lamista struggle to not only retain cultural autonomy and protect their lands from encroachment, but also to "talk back" to global systems of capitalism and political organization.

### Spanish Language or Quechua Language and Peruvian Culture...4cr

Choose one:

- Introductory Spanish (Spanish 198P)\*
- Intermediate Spanish (Spanish 298P)\*
- Advanced Spanish (Spanish 398P)\*
- Introductory Quechua (Latin American Studies 198Q)

\*Latin American Studies credit also available



\*\* special thanks to Living Routes alumnus Gabe Pollack, pictured right, for his photos \*\*