

# Global Urban Trek Student Program

**Application Deadline: January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026**

(If there are application issues, please contact [Isaiah.tabalbag@intervarsity.org](mailto:Isaiah.tabalbag@intervarsity.org))

***"The Global Urban Trek exists to cultivate a generation of global neighbors whose faith is a living practice of justice by being in solidarity with the vulnerable and creating a more just and compassionate world."***

- Global Urban Trek Vision Statement

## WHAT IS THE GLOBAL URBAN TREK?

A summer immersive program that invites students and staff to **live, listen, and learn** among the urban poor to witness what God is doing in their communities, their spaces, and their land.

## WHY PARTICIPATE IN A GLOBAL URBAN TREK AS A STUDENT?

Trek students develop and grow into self-aware, globally and locally minded, adaptive leaders who excel in cultivating incarnational campus ministry. Trek students focus on understanding core values like justice, generosity, and reciprocity. The values they learn throughout the program inform translatable campus skills that help students with cross-cultural competency, fostering incarnational spaces and developing meaningful relationships on campus.

This program will accelerate your leadership development through practical training and experiential learning. Previous Trek students have come on InterVarsity staff, served with local and international organizations working on justice efforts, and integrated the values on the Trek into their vocation, major and community.

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Collaborate with others to build and lead a diverse team of students internationally.
- Manage change and make decisions with discernment and non-anxious leadership in response to changing circumstances.
- Foster healthy team formation through conflict resolution and mediation.
- Exercise spiritual leadership through prayer, Scripture study, cross-cultural diplomacy with global partners and individual and communal discipleship.

## Program Overview 2026

This year-long program consists of three stages. Each stage includes components of spiritual formation, skills-based leadership development, and intercultural competency:

### Stage 1: Preparation (before the Trek)

February 2026 – June 2026

- Monthly team check-in and prayer
- Developing ministry partners and fundraising
- Language, cultural and site-specific learning with global partnerships and/or IFES movements

## Stage 2: Implementation (during the Trek)

June 2026 – August 2026

- Training, workshops and coaching provided for preparation
- Living and learning with and from local leaders and community members
- Serving in local global programs provided by hosts
- Processing with a cohort of 3 – 4 students and a staff member
- Weekly team gatherings for scripture study and spiritual formation

## Stage 3: Integration (after the Trek)

September 2026 – February 2027

- Formation and growth reflection
- Translating skills to campus ministry
- Integrating values into chapter life, vocation, and city

## Time Commitment:

- Monthly Team Gathering (1.5hr/month starting February)
- Weekly Fundraising Check-in (4hr/month)
- Language learning with IFES partners (2hr/month)
- Global Urban Trek (6-weeks)
- Monthly Post-Trek Cohort (1.5hr/monthly starting September – February)

## Cost:

- \$5,700 + airfare to and from orientation and debrief site in Houston, Texas
- Students must do weekly check-ins for their fundraising efforts with the fundraising coaching team.

## Hear from Global Urban Trek Voices

"After spending three weeks in Nicaragua witnessing how people are pitted against oppressive systemic injustices, I am beginning to understand the concepts of brokenness and God's kingdom justice" – *Sonia Wu, University of Davis, Trek Alum, Nicaragua 2023*

"My posture of living in solidarity with the marginalized, exploited and oppressed is something that continues as I step out of my community in the Philippines but it always leads back to the ultimate source of safety, peace and power that sits with His people, them and me alike in one Kingdom" – *Maci Thomas, University of Texas Dallas, Trek Alum, Philippines 2024*

"The Trek allows us to become physically proximate with our hosts and the communities we serve. However, this Trek, my eyes and heart have been opened to what it means to not only be proximate physically but also emotionally and with our hearts" – *Marcus Liu, University of Washington, Seattle, Trek Alum, Nicaragua 2023 and Mexico City 2024.*

Contact Isaiah Tabalbag [isaiah.tabalbag@intervarsity.org](mailto:isaiah.tabalbag@intervarsity.org) with any questions.

