

INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS IN FEDERATION EIL'S RESEARCH PROJECT

Instructions: Before filling out the survey questionnaire, please first read carefully and sign this "Informed Consent" Form. This form must be returned with the questionnaire in order for us to include your comments in our study. All information will be kept confidential and no names will be used. Also print this form and keep a copy for yourself.

Title of Research Project: **Assessing Intercultural Competence**

1. You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by the Federation EIL. Your participation is strictly voluntary. Before agreeing to participate, you should know enough about it to make an informed decision. If you have any questions, please ask and be sure you are satisfied with the answers before participating.

2. The purpose of the study is to learn how international civic service programs impact the intercultural learning of participants and others. We are contacting you to learn about your experience as part of The Experiment in International Living's VIP program in Ecuador.

3. Participation in this study involves the following:

- Alumni will complete a confidential questionnaire form after program completion. Current volunteers and mentors will complete a questionnaire form at the beginning, during, and at the end of their program. Your use of the form(s) will contribute data for this study and be of eventual use by future participants worldwide.
- The **Assessing Intercultural Competence (AIC)** questionnaire form is a self-evaluation that asks about the development of your intercultural competence and communication skills. It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.
- Interview – A percentage of those who complete the questionnaire form will be invited, if they consent, to a 1-hour interview. During the interview you will be asked questions based on the **AIC** form and your experiences in Ecuador.
- Host country mentors/supervisors will also be asked to complete this form, both on themselves and on current volunteers. This will provide an external perspective on volunteer development. Copies will be coded to preserve individual privacy.

4. There are no known risks associated with this research project other than possible discomfort with the following:

- You will be asked to be completely honest about yourself when completing the form.
- You will be asked questions about personal experiences as a volunteer or mentor in Ecuador.

5. Possible benefits from participation in this project are:

- You will have an opportunity to reflect on your experiences.
- You will contribute to knowledge about the impact of civic service programs.
- You will help to improve the program for future participants.

6. Remember, participation is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, and you may withdraw at anytime during the research project. In addition, you may choose not to answer any questions with which you are not comfortable. You will NOT be penalized in any way should you choose not to participate or to withdraw.

7. We will do everything we can to protect your privacy. As part of this effort, your identity will not be revealed in any publications that result from this study. The information in the study records will be kept strictly confidential. Individual data will be stored securely and will be made available only to persons conducting the study. No reference will be made in oral or written reports that could link you to the study.

8. If you have questions or concerns at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact the researcher in your country, the Federation EIL office (telephone: 1 802-258-3467), or email: alvino.fantini@sit.edu.

A. I have read this consent form and have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I hereby grant permission to use the information I provide as data in FEIL's research project, knowing that it will be kept confidential and without use of my name. I will also retain a signed copy of this consent form for my own personal records.

B. Participant's Signature

Date

C. I am willing to be contacted for an interview (of about one hour) to discuss my experience further:

Yes No

D. I prefer to be interviewed

in person by telephone

E. I am also interested in receiving a summary of the research report when available:

Yes No