

**Specialized Gender Concentration:
Social Constructions of Gender and
Community Based Organizations**
Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru

The Social Constructions of Gender and Community Based Organizations concentration is designed exclusively for participants on the IFSA-Butler Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú program. The concentration provides students with a multidisciplinary perspective on gender inequities and identities, the relationship between gender and culture, and how social agents enact gender roles and identities with the backdrop of community based organizations in Latin America.

This concentration is structured around the following components for a total of 15 to 16 U.S. semester credit hours:

Advanced Academic Writing and Peruvian Culture (3 U.S. semester credit hours)

This mandatory class helps participants reach and perfect competence at the advanced level in Spanish language, with an emphasis on oral and written skills on formal and informal levels. The class also emphasizes vocabulary and pronunciation. Discussions and weekly essays that focus in part on Peruvian and Latin American issues will be utilized. The course includes advanced language instruction with emphasis on the social sciences and a focus on gender issues.

Peruvian Social Reality program class (4 U.S. semester credit hours)

The purpose of this mandatory course is to help students reach a basic understanding of Peruvian social reality, identify the major problems and conflicts, and clarify the relationship of the present situation in Peru to the most important social processes. While the course does not propose to offer a detailed analysis of specific issues, it does present the principal economic, social and political problems of the country in terms of an overall analytical perspective. The course will focus on an individual research project based on the experience of each student in a non-governmental organization (NGO), which focuses upon a specific gender based issue in the Peruvian context. Students on the concentration can work at one of the following three NGOs:

- Casa de Panchita: This NGO focuses on domestic workers and their rights. The organization works with women, teenage girls and children who are either domestic workers, children of domestic workers or are likely to become domestic workers. They teach them skills by giving classes (English, cooking, computers, and arts and crafts among others), and they also teach them about their rights and help them organize.
- PROMSEX: This NGO focuses on sexual and reproductive rights by advocating for public policies and legislation that recognize, respect, promote and guarantee the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights as human rights. PROMSEX works with the LGBT community and various women's organizations.
- Flora Tristan Center for Peruvian Women: This feminist NGO has six main programs: human rights, sexual rights and healthy citizenship, rural development, feminist studies and debates, political participation and decentralization, and the national league of rural women. Flora Tristan is one of the most important and prolific feminist NGOs in the region.

To complete the coursework, students will also take three integrated courses at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú from the following list:

- General Theory of Gender Relations (semester 1 only) (DEG, 6 U.S. semester credit hours)
- Gender, Culture and Development (DEG, 6 U.S. semester credit hours)**
- Developmental Strategies (DEG, 3.5 U.S. semester credit hours)
- Seminar on Law and Gender (Law School, 3.5 U.S. semester credit hours)
- Gender and Mental Health (Psychology, 3.5 U.S. semester credit hours)
- Psychology of Gender (Sociology, 3.5 U.S. semester credit hours)
- Gender: Social Processes and Institutions (Sociology, 3.5 U.S. semester credit hours)
- Gender Relations (Anthropology, 3.5 U.S. semester credit hours)

**This course is sometimes split into two courses (Gender and Culture, and Gender and Development). If this is the case, each course is worth 3.5 U.S. semester credit hours.

Activities:

Students will also participate in a variety of activities throughout the semester to supplement the coursework and fieldwork completed with a local NGO. Students will have a day trip to a women's organization located in a socially disadvantaged area of Lima. During the visit, students will be able to interact with the women and will learn how they organize themselves politically, challenging gender stereotypes and traditional roles.

Other program excursions will include elements related to gender studies. For example, during the trip to Machu Picchu, students will visit an indigenous community where they will learn how gender roles are structured in the Andean world. The trip to Caral will show students how the discovery of the ancient civilization located there defied the traditional masculine accounts for the formation of societies and revealed a civilization based on pacifism and gender equality.

If you want to participate on the concentration, you should apply for the general Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú program and then inform your program advisor via e-mail of your interest in participating in the concentration. You should send a brief explanation in Spanish explaining why you chose to participate on the gender studies concentration and what specific topics related to gender studies you would like to study.