

**IMMERSION
Directed Study Agreement**

Student Name: _____

Faculty Name: _____

Course Number: _____ 680 **Credit Hours:** _____
(ADD area prefix in blank)

Course Title: _____

Month(s): _____ **Year:** _____

We agree to abide by the requirements noted on the attached syllabus.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Faculty Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Approval is indicated with signatures below:

Area Faculty Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Faculty Advisor: _____ **Date:** _____

FOR USE BY THE DEAN

Approved

Approved with changes noted on syllabus

Denied

Signature

Date

Lexington Theological Seminary requires that each M.Div. student takes an Immersion Course in order to expand her/his understanding of the world in which ministry occurs. The Seminary expects a student to learn about the context of another culture, to identify an issue of ministry and to explore a theological issue. For a course to receive academic credit as an Immersion Course, it will need to meet the following expectations:

1. The setting for the course will take the student out of his/her received cultural background, preferably to another region or country;
2. The minimum length of an immersion course would usually be at least five days;
3. The course will expect the student to describe and analyze the context of the setting and integrate that analysis with a particular issue of ministry (see below for examples);
4. Student evaluations will be based on a letter grade system;
5. Immersion courses will have oversight from Lexington Theological Seminary faculty or be a transferred immersion course from another accredited institution. If a student wants to take an immersion course from another institution, the student would need to have an LTS faculty member in that field review the course to assure the appropriateness of the course, its readings and assignments for our curriculum and to recommend supplemental work as appropriate.

Components for describing, analyzing and integrating the context (from #2 above) will include at least the following:

1. Evidence that the student has researched the context of the course destination, including
 - a. A brief history of the country/region, including key alliances and historic tensions;
 - b. Colonial influences as appropriate;
 - c. Religious constituencies and influence;
 - d. Languages both spoken and written;
 - e. Issues of tension and cooperation within the country/region;
 - f. Distinctive cultural qualities of the country/region;
 - g. Form of government and how it addresses social problems;
 - h. Educational system both formal and informal;
 - i. Economic traits and issues including
 - 1) Per capita income and distribution of income
 - 2) Major industries and businesses
2. A critical review of one book and two articles about the country/culture plus an annotated bibliography of ten books and articles;
3. A series of preliminary questions, crafted in consultation with faculty, that the student will utilize on the trip. These questions would include such things as
 - a. How the student will deepen his/her understanding of the context of the country/region;
 - b. A hunch about a theological issue(s) that the student will explore on the trip;
 - c. How the student anticipates exploring an issue of ministry on the trip.
4. A final project that integrates the readings and experience with the questions and issue(s) identified in consultation with faculty.