



COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

LOS ANGELES CITY IMMERSION

Onsite portion of class
October 23-November 1,
2026

Online portion of class
October 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

The theme for the Los Angeles City Immersion is “Multicultural Megacity: Signs of Hope and Signs of Need in the Entertainment Capital of the World.” In this course, you will be exposed to the principles and practices of transformational leadership using the environment and culture of one of the largest and most influential cities in the world as a classroom. Widely known as “Tinseltown,” the Greater Los Angeles Area is a sprawling metropolis, an extremely diverse melting pot with more than 18 million residents who have gathered from 140+ countries speaking more than 200 languages. It is a city of contrasts with much more going on than just the glitz and glamour of Hollywood and the entertainment industry, including innovative businesses, an entrepreneurial spirit, boundless idealism, and dreamers who get things done in various sectors of society. People appreciate the area for its beautiful beaches, palm trees, mountains, valleys, and warm weather year-round. Beyond exploring the scenic geographical treasures, there are many gems to explore including museums, art galleries, shopping, architectural wonders, theme parks, towns with unique subcultures, and culinary experiences that cannot be matched anywhere else in the world.

While there are many signs of hope in Los Angeles, there are also many challenges. It is a transient city with many people coming and going. There are significant gaps between rich and poor due to the high cost of living, including an average cost of a home in the region that recently surpassed \$1 million USD. There is a shadow side to a lifestyle of glamour, affluence, and cultures clashing, including societal issues arising from poverty, addiction, migration, crime, ethnic tension, inadequate infrastructure and water supply, and overcrowding. As the world rapidly urbanizes with the largest migration of human beings in history taking place as people move from rural areas to cities, there is much to be learned from the history, rapid rise, current context, and future of the metropolitan region of Los Angeles. Students will interact with transformational leaders serving in business, politics, churches, and nonprofit organizations throughout Los Angeles who are truly

making an impact while going to the powerless and powerful with equal integrity. We will see first-hand how BGU's eight perspectives on transformational leadership can make a practical difference in a megacity.

The course contains many experiential features, including exploring for 10 days in different neighborhoods in Los Angeles, as well as more traditional academic pedagogies to help you find application and relevancy in your own context and for your dissertation research areas of interest. Spiritual formation is a significant component of the learning experience. There will also be several weeks of interaction online before the start of the onsite components of the course, and several gatherings online afterward to help leaders reflect on what they learned and discern practical applications for their own cities. Join with a group of global leaders as we explore transformational leadership for the city together utilizing Los Angeles as our classroom!

The information in reference to this course is **as of June 17, 2026**. This Course Information Sheet will be updated as planning progresses, so please check back regularly once you've registered for the course for the updates.

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Logistics Coordinator:

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Students To Do List

Welcome to the 2026 Los Angeles City Immersion! Greeting from our Professor of Record, Dr. Bryan McCabe, and our Logistics Coordinator, Dr. Robert Rush! We are honored to serve you for this Immersion. We are so glad that you have chosen to take this course and go on this extraordinary learning experience with us. Here is a summary of all of the preparation steps you'll have to take to get ready for our wonderful learning experience together:

1. You will make your own air, lodging, and ground arrangements.

Please contact Dr. Rush to assist you in making lodging reservations. Note: Los Angeles is an expensive city, and it is very spread out. We are working on finalizing the details of the main neighborhood and classroom location where we will be gathering as our starting point each day. This location will be announced very soon, and the Course Information Sheet will be updated. Once we finalize that location, we will work on negotiating deals on lodging opportunities that are either directly at or very close to our daily meeting location so that we can help you to keep the lodging expenses down as much as possible. We may be able to help you to arrange to have a roommate to split the costs of the lodging, if desired. Just let Dr. Rush know. If you try to arrange lodging for the Los Angeles City Immersion without communicating and confirming with us (such as using hotel points or staying with relatives or friends in a random location in the metropolitan LA area) you may end up staying in a location that would make it extremely inconvenient for you to participate in our course due to the infamous Los Angeles traffic. So, please work with us on arranging your lodging for the 10 days. Please plan to stay for all 10 days, otherwise you will miss out on key parts of the learning experience. Plan to arrive by air during the afternoon on October 23 and depart any time that is convenient on November 1.

We will provide for transportation throughout the city immersion to various tours and site visits. You will be responsible for transportation to and from the airport and from your lodging to the main classroom location each day, so we are hoping that we can assist you with lodging that is either directly at or within easy walking distance to the main classroom location. We will depart from our main classroom location for all tours and site visits, and we will meet there daily for Spiritual Formation and various lectures and classroom activities. That is also the location that we are likely to return to each day.

2. Once you have secured your air travel, please Email to Dr. Rush with the following:

- Flight Itinerary
- Picture page of passport
- Any food allergies
- Special diets (vegan, etc.)
- Lodging reservation

3. International Travel Requirements:

The dates for the onsite portion have been set for Friday, October 23 to Sunday, November 1, 2026. Travel days will be Friday, October 23 (the course starts promptly at 6:00pm, so plan to arrive in Los Angeles no later than 4:00pm) and departing on Sunday, November 1 (depart any time on this day... we will have a gathering until 12:00pm that day for anyone who does not fly out in the morning). Make sure that your travel times coincide with the class schedule for these days. While we may be able to meet you at the airport, you should be prepared to provide your own transportation to and from the airport to your lodging location on these days.

Check in your country whether you need a visa invitation and/or visa to enter the United States. Many visitors do not need a visa to the United States if their stay is less than 90 days, although there have been many policy changes recently that have impacted travel into and out of the United States. Please look thoroughly into the requirements for you to get in and out of the United States from your country of origin.

Flight Information

Students are responsible for making their own air travel. Please be advised, if you are not a citizen of the United States, advance planning is absolutely necessary. Rules and regulations on entering the United States will depend upon the country in which you reside. Visit www.traveldocs.com for current travel rules. If you need help with flight reservations, contact Dr. Rush. There are several international airports in the metro area, but we prefer to have everyone fly in and out of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) as that will be closest to our course location.

Local Airport: **Los Angeles International Airport** **Airport Code:** **LAX**

Low Airfares: If you are looking for economically feasible air prices, try:

www.cheapfares.com

<https://www.expedia.com/>

<https://www.kayak.com/flights>

www.orbitz.com

Insurance: Flight or travel insurance is not included in your tuition. Students must obtain their own travel insurance through their airline or see www.traveldocs.com

VISA

Entering the United States: If you are *not* a US citizen, the country in which you reside will determine your need for a visa. It is imperative that you start the visa process as far in advance as possible as delays could result in denials. Please contact Bunmi Morgan (Bunmi.morgan@bgu.edu) if you will need a letter of invitation for your visa application.

Travel Document Systems: A self-help online option is www.traveldocs.com

Vaccinations

COVID-19: The COVID-19 epidemic has had a major impact on international travel. The situation regarding requirements to travel to and from the United States are subject of change, depending on the actual situation of the COVID-19 infections in Europe and in the United States. Please check the current situation by going to <https://www.traveldoc.aero> or check the United States Secretary of State website (<https://www.state.gov/secretary>).

Are other vaccines needed to travel to the United States? No other vaccinations are mandatory; however, some other vaccinations may be recommended based on the circumstances and plans during travel. Check the travel website above to determine if there are any requirements related to your country of origin.

For US students, at least one month before the trip, go to www.cdc.gov or call (800) 232-4636 for immunizations recommended for the region where you will travel to. Consult with your doctor to determine, from your medical records, which vaccinations you need prior to your trip. Most state and local health departments offer discounted vaccinations.

Lodging

Students are responsible for making their own housing reservations and payment.

Immersion Lodging:

Please check back here soon for details on lodging options. Do not make your lodging reservations for the Los Angeles City Immersion without working with our Logistics Coordinator, Dr. Rush.

Photos of Lodging... Coming soon. Go to next page.

Immersion Gatherings

Our Central Immersion Location (meeting location each day) is... to be determined. Coming soon!

Our sponsoring church is... to be determined. Coming soon!

Ground Transportation

Students are responsible for making their own ground travel arrangements to and from the Los Angeles International Airport. Check with Dr. Rush a day before you arrive as we may be able to pick up several students at a time depending on your flight arrival time.

Plan your flight to arrive by the early afternoon on Friday, October 23, 2026, no later than 4:00 pm. Class begins at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 23, 2026. Plan your return travel to be any time that is most convenient for you on Sunday, November 1, 2026. There will be a gathering that will end at 12:00pm on Sunday, November 1, for anyone whose flight does not depart in the morning.

Public transportation: There is transportation available by bus or rail throughout the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Just go to the LA Metro website at <https://www.metro.net> for more details and to get more information about routes. If you have more questions, please connect with Dr. Rush.

Taxis, Uber or Lyft: Taxis, Uber, or Lyft are available at the airport. Depending on where your lodging is located, the costs might be between \$60-\$100 per ride. Taxis, Uber and Lyft can be used throughout the Los Angeles metropolitan areas, keeping in mind that transportation for tours and site visits will be provided by BGU throughout the 10 days. If you have more questions, please connect with Dr. Rush.

Fees

Your account balance must be paid in full (including the required Onsite Fees) not later than two weeks prior to class start date.

- **The Onsite Fee** of **\$450.00** covers the costs associated with this course that are outside of the normal tuition, such as transportation, tickets and entrance fees to venues, and some group meals.
- **Spouse:** If your spouse will be accompanying you, the cost is **\$950.00** (This includes the above-mentioned Onsite Fee).
- **Auditor:** To attend as an auditor (educational experience), your cost is **\$950.00** (This includes the above-mentioned Onsite Fee).

General Information

- **Course Schedule:** The Onsite class starts **Friday, October 23, 2026 at 6:00pm** and concludes **Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 12:00 noon**. The daily schedule will be from approximately 8:00am – 5:00pm, with some evening events. Check the Immersion Schedule that will be provided on the first day of the onsite part of the course for actual times and locations.
- Due to flight schedules and the uncertainty of air travel these days, you should plan to arrive in **Los Angeles early in the afternoon of Friday, October 23, 2026, to arrive for the Opening Reception at 6:00 pm**.
- **Packing:** BGU advises only **one** suitcase and **one** carry-on per person. Most often you will be carrying your own bags. Plan to carry on essentials, (i.e. change of clothes, medication, etc.). in case your luggage does not arrive with you.
- **Clothing:** Dress is generally casual in Southern California. Average temperatures in October are mild between 60-80 F degrees. Keep in mind that the area has various microclimates, so it may be a little hotter or cooler depending on areas we travel. It's a good idea to bring some clothing layers. Good walking/hiking shoes are a *must* for city excursions.
- **Extra Spending Money:** Not all meals are covered in your Onsite Fee. Each student should have extra cash or an ATM card available prior to arriving. You can pay almost everything with your credit / bank card – so you do not have to carry much cash. Currency exchange is available at the airport upon arrival. Since not all meals are included in your Onsite Fee, you can estimate an additional USD **\$25-40 per day** to cover extra costs.
- **Internet:** Most likely our main classroom location will provide free Internet access, as well as many of the locations for the site visits. If you have an international cell phone provider, you can purchase a chip/sim card in the airport for your phone so that you have extra data when using the Internet.