



COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

JAMAICA URBAN IMMERSION

On-site portion of class

January 30 -February 6, 2026

Online portion of class

January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

The Immersion's theme, *Nurturing Shalom in the City*, examines the historical context that informs the nation's strength, courage, and challenges through the lens of BGU's eight Leadership Perspectives. The Immersion will build on the participants' inner spiritual formation while providing practical insights for their call to be agents of transformation.

We explore the Island's enchanting beauty, its challenges, and the role of Christ-centered leaders in government, religious, for-profit, and non-profit organizations. Our site visits will include the scenic beauty of the gardens, the Island's famous waterfall, and the complex, harsh reality of city life. We will sit with an incarnational leader who moved his office into the slums and re-vision a community made popular as the home of Bob Marley. Our journeys will include a visit to the Missionaries of the Poor, where the abandoned and homeless are cared for, echoing BGU's Shalom and Incarnational Leadership Perspectives.

Students To-Do List

Welcome to Kingston, Jamaica... Greetings from Dr. McKenzie! I am honored to serve as your POR 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 and ground arrangements.

You may contact the **Logistics Coordinator**, Nathalia Mighty (nathalia.mighty@bgu.edu), to assist you with hotel reservations. Note: We highly recommend that you make your reservation at the Terra Nova All Suite, 17 Waterloo Rd. Kingston Jamaica. The hotel has contracted to provide a free meeting space for all 10 days. You can share a room, as double-occupancy options are available. If you are interested in sharing a room, please let Nathalia know, and she can connect you with same-gender classmates.

We will depart from this location for all tours and visits, meet here daily for Spiritual Formation, and have several lectures and classroom activities hosted here. It would be most convenient if you would stay at this location.

If you choose another hotel or location, you will be responsible for your own transportation to this location to catch the bus or van for the day's site visits.

2. Once you have secured your air travel, please email Nathalia Mighty (nathalia.mighty@bgu.edu) with the following:

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

3. International Travel Requirements:

The dates for the on-site portion are Friday, January 30 - Sunday, February 6, 2025. Travel days will be Friday, January 30, arriving before 3:00 pm (no later than 4:00 pm) and departing on Friday, February 6. Make sure your travel times align with the class schedule on these days. While we try to meet you at the airport, you should be prepared to provide your own transportation to and from the airport to the hotel on these days.

Check with your country's embassy whether you need a visa invitation and/or a visa to enter Jamaica.

Flight Information

Students are responsible for making their own air travel. If there are no direct flights to Jamaica from your country, please check the in-transit visa requirements.

Local Airport: Norman Manley International Airport Code: KIN

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 Jamaica: Verify your entry requirements; some countries may require a Visa to enter Jamaica. You must 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 significant impact on international travel. Please check the current situation by going to <https://www.traveldoc.aero> .

Are other vaccines needed to travel to Jamaica? 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.

Hotels

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

Immersion Hotel:

**The Terra Nova All Suite,
17 Waterloo Rd.
Kingston Jamaica**

- Free Parking
- Complimentary Meeting Space
- Complimentary Breakfast Buffet included
- Double occupancy to allow room-sharing
- BGU is the single point of contact for any concerns
- 4-star ratings and positive reviews

We highly recommend this hotel. This hotel is where we will meet each day for Spiritual Formation, as well as other group lectures and meetings. We will also provide transportation to all site visits from this location only.

To save money, you may share a double-occupancy queen room.

Should you decide to stay with friends or at another hotel, you will also be responsible for daily transportation to and from the hotel to join the group. Keep these additional costs in mind as you consider other options.

Photos:







Immersion Gatherings

Our **Central Immersion Location** for daily gatherings will be the conference room at the Terra Nova Hotel.

Ground Transportation

Uber or Taxi: Taxis are available at the airport. Please note that the taxis are relatively expensive.

Fees

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

- **The On-site 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 On-site Fee).
- **Auditor:** To attend as an auditor, your cost is **\$950.00** (This includes the above-mentioned On-site Fee).

General Information

- **Course Schedule:** The On-site class starts **Friday, January 30, 2026, at 6:00 pm and concludes Friday, February 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** The daily schedule will be from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm, with some evening events. Check the Immersion Schedule for actual times and locations.
- Due to flight schedules and the uncertainty of air travel these days, you should plan to arrive in Kingston, Jamaica, on January 30, by midday.
- **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. Average temperatures are 72°F. Good walking/hiking shoes are a **must** for city excursions.
- **Extra Spending Money:** Not all meals are covered in your On-site Fee. Each student should have extra cash or an ATM card available before arriving. You can pay for 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 On-site Fee, you can estimate an additional USD **\$25-40 per day** to cover extra costs.
- **Internet:** The hotel offers free Internet access.