REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

PERU

PERU TEACHER STUDY TOUR

9 NIGHTS | JUNE 28-JULY 8, 2027



$3,700 TOTAL ESTIMATED AFTER AIRFARE

- $300 SUBSIDY PER GUEST
- ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE (includes in-country travel)
- HOTEL ROOM 9 NIGHTS
- DAILY BREAKFAST
- PRIVATE GUIDED TOURS
- MUSEUM ENTRANCE FEES

GEEA Global Economic Education Alliance

vcee.

And the Centro de Educación Económica
Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC)



PERU

Benefits of the program:

- Travel time on the bus/train will provide ample opportunity for participating teachers and our hosts to explore mutual areas of interest and to exchange insights on the economic and social challenges in Peru.
- Teachers will gain firsthand insight into Peru and its economy, enhancing their ability to connect global concepts to the classroom. They can compare economic issues in the U.S. and Peru and apply their learning to future lessons.







- Participating teachers will also be able to bring their enriched international perspective to their community and professional conferences. All are encouraged to share their experiences via a PowerPoint or video presentation at a seminar or workshop conducted by their state Council for Economic Education, local Center for Economic Education, or other professional development organization.



APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 2, 2027

ECONOMIC EDUCATION STUDY TOUR TO PERU

I. Overview

- The Global Economic Education Alliance (GEEA) and the Virginia Council on Economic Education (VCEE) are offering a study tour to Peru for K-12 schoolteachers and economic educators from throughout the United States.
- The trip will be nine nights in-country, with eight days of events and two travel days.
- The study tour will be administered and led by Professor Stephen Day, Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Economic Education, and Professor Claudia Sicoli, Director of the Centro de Educación Económica de la Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC) in Lima, Peru.
- This tour will provide a unique opportunity for educators to exchange ideas, teaching methodology and experiences in economic education with Peruvian educators as well as colleagues from other states within the U.S.
- This Study Tour to Peru is a highly effective way of learning about an economy and experiencing firsthand, not only the educational system, but also the reality of everyday life. Teachers who have participated in GEEA Study Tours remark that it was "an experience of a lifetime." The objective is that teachers return to their classrooms with renewed appreciation of the importance of economics and enthusiasm for economics education. Students will ultimately gain from their teacher's life-changing experience.
- For additional thoughts about the value of such a Study Tour, you are encouraged to read the post-study tour teacher reflections on the GEEA website, www.globaleconed.org.

II. Structure The Study Tour has three distinct phases – preparation, trip to Peru, and post-tour follow-up.

- **A. Preparation** We prepare for the trip several months prior to departure. Once we select the tour group, Dr. Day will conduct preparatory planning via electronic communication. We will discuss study tour planning as well as complete readings on Peruvian history, culture, politics, economics, and educational challenges.

- **B. Trip to Peru**
  - Dates: Participants will depart from their chosen airport on Monday, June 28th and arrive home on Thursday, July 8th.
  - Tour participants will:
    - Visit schools and classes at the K-12 or university levels in Lima and Cusco. These visits will include meetings with teachers, students, and education officials. Participants will observe how Peruvian educators overcome the challenges of material and administrative constraints.
    - Visit the Central Bank of Peru and hear a lecture on the economic situation in Peru.
    - Visit cultural and historic sites in Lima, Cusco, the Sacred Valley, and Machu Picchu. Learn about the Inca Empire, the Spanish conquest, and the modern Latin American economy.

- **C. Follow-up**. Upon returning to your respective schools, participants will:
  - Incorporate experiences from this program into teaching at your school.
  - Share the experience with colleagues in your school, your school district, and/or your community (e.g., slide presentation with photos, video, etc.)
  - Optional but encouraged: Based on your Council or Center workshop opportunities, attend a teacher workshop conducted by your local *Center for Economic Education* or state *Council for Economic Education* in the coming year to deliver a presentation about your experiences and observations in Peru.
  - Optional: Consider participating in an online exchange with a Peruvian schoolteacher (and students) whom you may meet on this trip. This depends on the Peruvian school's computer and web access and is at your own initiative.
  - Submit a 1,000 word (about 3 – 4 pages with 12-point font, double space) **Post-Tour Report/Reflection** to your supporting Center/Council and to Professors Day & Sicoli that summarizes the personal benefits gained from the experience, the benefits to your students, and your ideas for follow-on activities with your school, school district and/or your state Council or local *Center for Economic Education*. Consider this your reflection on the value of the Study Tour.
  - Due date for post-tour reflection: August 1, 2027
  - The GEEA Study Tour subsidy ($300 per K-12 teacher) for travel will be provided to participants upon submission of this Post-Tour Report. Virginia teachers who turn in the report by this date get an additional $350 subsidy from VCEE.

III. *Important* Requirements and Miscellaneous Details

- Applicants must currently be K-12 teachers in the United States or involved in Economic Education administration (e.g., Center or Council personnel or equivalent). We also encourage English as Second Language (ESL) teachers to apply. Attendees on the tour do not need to know Spanish.
- Applicants ***must*** have valid passports when submitting the application (or show proof of passport application). A copy of the photo page of your passport must be included with the application. Your passport should not expire for at least 6-months after the completion of our Peru tour.
- ***Please note***: Participation in this study tour **is physically taxing**. Peru is not always as handicap friendly as the U.S., and the tour to Machu Picchu and the Incan historic sites in the Sacred Valley requires **much walking at high altitude up/down uneven stone steps**.
- You may not have baggage handlers to help you, so try very hard to **minimize luggage/weight**; large suitcases become difficult to handle, as you may have to carry up and down stairs. Ramps & elevators are sometimes not available. Stairs may be uneven and without railings.
- Accommodations (double-occupancy) are very nice.
- Be prepared to depart the hotel in the morning (sometimes very early) and not have an opportunity to rest until late afternoon or early evening.
- We will all fly to Lima, Peru on Monday, June 28th, 2027, from our respective airports.
- **In coordination with Stephen Day**, each participant will purchase his/her own roundtrip airline ticket to and from Lima, preferably scheduling an arrival in Lima in the evening of June 28th. As Study Tour participants exit customs with luggage, groups of 2 to 3 will meet and depart Lima Airport by pre-arranged taxi for our hotel in Miraflores (a “suburb” of Lima).
- Return to U.S.: Schedule return flights from Lima Airport to your home airport for **late** afternoon or evening July 7th.
- Professor Claudia Sicoli and the *Centro de Educación Económica de la Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas* (UPC) will serve as our primary host in Peru.
- Internet access in Peru should be available at all hotels.
- Vaccinations: Participants should check the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for recommended shots, etc. for travel to Peru. During the preparation phase, we will discuss these recommendations in more detail.
- It may not be easy to accommodate special dietary requirements, but our Peruvian hosts will do the best possible to ensure diet needs are met. Be sure to let us know of any special needs.

- Participants will be responsible for the cost of alcoholic beverages and snacks/food outside of the planned group meals. Water, soft drinks, and juices are provided at group meals. Bottled water is provided on bus tours and site visits.
- Each participant should purchase his/her own travel medical insurance through one of the many providers of these policies. More information will be provided during the Preparatory Phase. Past participants have been pleased with *TravelGuard* or *RoamRight* for their travel insurance needs.

- Expense Summary:

Airfare – the roundtrip airfare will cost **approximately**:[1]	$1,200
In-country costs:[2]	$2,800
GEEA grant to each teacher to defray a portion of the total cost :[3]	-$300
Net estimated total Study Tour cost paid by each teacher participant	**$3,700**
VCEE grant to Virginia teachers (additional to GEEA grant):	-$350

- *The Global Economic Education Alliance* will be the fiscal agent. Each accepted participant is responsible to complete payment of $2,800 to the ***Global Economic Education Alliance*** no later than April 7, 2027. These funds are needed to make down payments to reserve some hotels and reservations.[4]
- Each participant will be required to sign a *GEEA Release and Waiver Form*. This form will be signed by each participant at our first meeting in Lima.
- Applicants will receive notification of **acceptance no later than February 9.**
- If you have any questions about the Study Tour or its costs, contact Stephen Day at shday@vcu.edu.

1. Current roundtrip airfares are estimated to be in the $800 – $1,500 range, depending on city of U.S. departure and airline. In the past, some teachers found substantially less costly airfare, but each situation differs.
2. Includes hotel (double occupancy), restaurants including tips for group meals, in-country (LATAM) airfare Lima to Cusco, Cusco back to Lima, local bus transport, Sacred Valley tour, train to/from Machu Picchu, and Machu Picchu entrance and tour fees, activities/experiences, all breakfasts, and many group lunches and dinners. Minor personal and incidental expenditures, some on-your-own meals, and tour guide tips are borne by participants.
3. Thanks to GEEA for supporting teacher participants on this Study Tour. A $300 GEEA check will be provided to each teacher participant upon submission of the post-tour report. Only active K-12 teachers are eligible for this grant. See timeline for more details.
4. *The Global Economic Education Alliance*, the *Virginia Council on Economic Education,* and all organizations involved in the Study Tour selection process shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Study Tour to Peru from June 28 – July 8, 2027

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS: February 2, 2027

- **Email your application to Stephen Day**, the group leader, at **shday@vcu.edu.** You can also ask Dr. Day questions about payment and funding.

- **Descriptive Essay:**
  - A double-spaced typewritten descriptive essay addressing the following questions (please limit to 750 – 1000 words – about 2 or 3 pages):
    - Top of the first page:
      - Name: _____
      - School: _____
      - Grade Level(s): _____
      - Courses Teaching: _____
      - Degrees and Universities:
      - Bachelor's degree in _____ from _____.
      - Advanced degree(s) in _____ from _____.
    - In your essay, briefly address the following:
      1. Why are you interested in participating in this teacher Study Tour to Peru?
      2. Identify two primary goals you have for this Peruvian experience.
      3. Describe one of your cross-cultural experiences or your international travel experiences. (Note: Previous international travel experience is NOT required to participate in this Study Tour.)
      4. How do you plan to share your expanded knowledge and experiences from this Study Tour with your students, community, and colleagues?

- **Copy of the photo page of your passport**, which shows expiration date (and provides needed name/birthdate information for in-country airline reservations, train reservations and Machu Picchu entrance ticket). If you have applied for a passport or passport renewal, please provide related information.

- **Letter of Support:**
  - From your state Council for Economic Education, your local Center for Economic Education, or another economic education organization with which you have interacted (e.g., Foundation for Teaching Economics, Junior Achievement, etc.), or from your school principal/administrator.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Teacher Study Tour to Peru June 28 – July 8, 2027

WHY PERU?

Although suffering a growth slowdown in 2014 – 18, Peru enjoyed reasonably strong economic growth averaging 6.4% a year for the decade 2003-13, the fastest average growth over this period of any large country in Latin America. During the Covid pandemic, Peru faced a sharp "V-shaped" path with GDP growth plunging by 11%, only to recover even more quickly a year later. Inflation is low. Peru faces challenges: a mining industry facing protests and opposition, a government that struggles with corruption, political instability, a low-skilled workforce, a rigid formal labor market, a large informal economy, and a weak educational system. Peru is a very important country in Latin America, and we welcome the opportunity to investigate this most interesting country with such fascinating culture, geography, history, and economy.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The study tour will include all or most of the following:

- Visits to poor public schools and high-performing private schools in Lima and Cusco.
- Visit to the Central Bank of Peru, with a talk on the economic situation in Peru from a bank economist.
- Social event and/or education sessions with students at Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC).
- Meetings with UPC faculty.
- Visit with economic and financial literacy education policymakers.
- Cultural and historical component to include the Sacred Valley, Cusco, Machu Picchu, and other interesting cultural and historic sites.

- The Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas is a private university located in Lima, Peru. Claudia Sicoli is on the faculty of economics and is a past participant in two Study Tours to the United States (Colorado and Georgia). Claudia and John have conducted six U.S. Teacher Study Tours to Peru in March 2015, April 2016, June 2017, June 2018, June 2019, and June 2023.
- As part of the study tour routine, structured group reflection and journaling or field notes will be utilized to share perspectives and to stimulate deeper learning. Participants will be asked to reflect daily on their experience as well as share their insights from the activities.

BENEFITS OF PROGRAM

- Travel time on the bus/train will provide ample opportunity for participating teachers and our hosts to explore mutual areas of interest and to exchange insights on the economic and social challenges in Peru.
- Participating teachers will be better able to develop their students' understanding of our world. The program will provide teachers with first-hand knowledge of another country and its economy. Classroom educators can compare issues in both the U.S. and Peru. Some participants may choose to incorporate their enhanced knowledge into an expanded unit or topic in a course they teach.
- Participating teachers will also be able to bring their enriched international perspective to their community and professional conferences. All are encouraged to share their experiences via a video or slide presentation at a seminar or workshop conducted by their state Council for Economic Education, local Center for Economic Education, or other professional development organization.

TEACHER STUDY TOUR TO PERU
TIMELINE

- **As soon as possible, but definitely before the February 2, 2027 deadline**:
  - Email your application to Stephen Day (shday@vcu.edu).

- **February 9, 2027** at latest: You will receive notification of acceptance or rejection.

Post-Selection/Preparation Phase:

- **February 16, 2027:** Deadline to commit via email to Stephen Day (shday@vcu.edu).

- **February 16 – March 30, 2027:** Airline tickets purchased by participants. Important: **before** finalizing your purchase, get approval from Stephen Day. Once purchased, send full itinerary to Stephen.







TEACHER STUDY TOUR TO PERU
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- **April 7, 2027** at latest: Complete payment of $2,800 to the *Global Economic Education Alliance*. Instructions for payment will be sent to accepted travelers. Checks can be mailed to Stephen Day, or credit card payments made at GEEA website donation button. Subsidies from GEEA and (for Virginia teachers) VCEE will be paid after the trip (see below).

Study Tour/Trip Phase (brief trip agenda):

- **June 28:** Depart for Lima. Arrive Lima Airport no later than noon, June 29th, 2027.

- **June 29 – July 2:** Lima portion of tour. *Hotel Estelar* (or comparable) in Miraflores. School visits, Central Bank visit, UPC program, Lima city tour, free time to explore.

- **July 3:** AM flight to Cusco. *Atoq San Blas* Hotel. Great boutique hotel conveniently located a short walk from the beautiful Plaza de Armas.







TEACHER STUDY TOUR TO PERU
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Study Tour/Trip Phase (brief trip agenda):

- **July 4-6:** Cusco / Machu Picchu portion of tour. Free time to explore the historic Old Cusco city; train to Aguas Calientes for Machu Picchu tour; Sacred Valley tour; School visits.

- **July 7:** AM or early PM flight from Cusco to Lima Airport. Early to late evening flights to USA.

- **July 8:** Arrive in the United States.

Study Tour Follow-up Phase:

- **Following Study Tour:** Implement plan to share experiences with students, colleagues, Council/Center, etc.

- **By August 1, 2027:** Deadline to submit post-tour report to Professor Day, Professor Sicoli and to your supporting Council or Center. Subsidy check from GEEA (and VCEE if applicable) then provided.





