



Summer Internship: Casa de los Amigos, Mexico City May 29-August 7, 2017

This 10-week experiential learning internship offers up to four Haverford and Bryn Mawr College students an incredible opportunity to work for peace and social justice while living in an intentional community in the heart of Mexico City. Selected students can split their time evenly between the Casa de los Amigos, a Quaker center for peace and international understanding, and another social justice organization in the city. The Mexico City orientation includes several days of training to contextualize the Casa's work, Mexican history, politics, and participating in an in-depth orientation on issues of economic justice, asylum, and the roots and realities of poverty and migration culture that will be led by the Haverford Post-Bac Fellow, the Casa's full-time staff, and other full-time volunteers.

CASA DE LOS AMIGOS, A.C. 2016 Solicitud de Voluntariado para Estudiantes de Haverford

La Casa de los Amigos es un Centro de Paz y Entendimiento Internacional en la Ciudad de México. A través de sus programas y actividades sociales y culturales, la Casa promueve la paz con justicia, alimenta el entendimiento entre grupos y personas, y apoya a la dignidad humana de cada persona. La Casa mantiene una casa de huéspedes la cual proporciona hospitalidad a corto plazo y una atmósfera de la preocupación social y de la comprensión internacional a los huéspedes y a los visitantes de todas partes del mundo. La casa fue fundada en 1956 por la comunidad cuáquera en la Ciudad de México y es guiada por los valores cuáqueros.

En 2007, la Casa estableció una relación con el Centro de Paz y Ciudadanía Global de Haverford College, a través del programa de voluntariado de verano (internships) para estudiantes de Haverford. Los estudiantes viven en la Casa con los otros voluntarios de tiempo completo, huéspedes, y personal. Trabajan tiempo parcial (2-3 días por semana) en los programas de hospitalidad y/o de migración y justicia económica de la Casa, y tiempo parcial (2-3 días por semana) con una otra organización mexicana en un campo de interés. Los estudiantes, también pueden escoger la opción de trabajar tiempo completo en La Casa. La estancia empieza a finales de Mayo, y dura 10-12 semanas.

Para facilitar la experiencia de voluntariado, el personal de la Casa coordina con cada estudiante para encontrar una organización adecuada para compartir su voluntariado. La Casa mantiene relaciones con diversas organizaciones que se dedican a los temas de derechos humanos, paz, justicia social, economía solidaria, mujeres y jóvenes, desarrollo comunitario, y más. Buscamos oportunidades que reflejan los intereses y experiencia de los estudiantes y tratamos de asegurar que tengan suficiente supervisión y apoyo durante su tiempo en México.

Se decidirán un horario semanal y las responsabilidades específicas de cada estudiante en colaboración con la dirección de la Casa y la otra organización con la que trabajará. Dentro de la Casa, las responsabilidades pueden incluir: apoyar al proyecto de economía solidaria; organizar materiales en el Centro de Recursos; organizar eventos educativos sobre los temas de paz, justicia social, y migración; trabajar en la casa de huéspedes; apoyar a proyectos de recaudación de fondos y tareas administrativas.

Cabe enfatizar que todos los voluntarios en la Casa desempeñan un papel vital en fomentar un ambiente de hospitalidad y comunidad. Se exige que en el trabajo se requiera de un interés sincero y un disfrute de conocer gente nueva. Para algunos el trabajar y vivir en el mismo lugar puede ser una verdadera dificultad. Además, la Casa mantiene reglas de convivencia que prohíben el alcohol, las drogas y fumar. Sin embargo, la mayoría de la gente que trabaja como voluntario/a tiene una experiencia enriquecedora, se enamora de México, y hace amigos de por vida.

ABOUT CASA DE LOS AMIGOS, A.C.

Founded in 1956 by the Quaker community of Mexico, the Casa is a non-profit peace organization, a community center, a social justice-oriented guest house, the meetinghouse for Mexico City Friends (Quakers), and a home. At the Casa a diverse group of guests and volunteers from around the world cultivate a unique community in a social justice-oriented environment. A CPGC intern will become immersed in all aspects of Casa work and life, gaining an in-depth knowledge of an historic organization. Like full-time volunteers, the intern divides his or her time between the Hospitality programs, the Migration and Economic Justice Programs, and other Casa projects.

The Hospitality Program seeks to support Mexican civil society and all those who work for peace and justice in Mexico and the world. Interns will:

- take turns running the reception of the Casa's 40 person guest house. The responsibilities include representing the Casa, receiving guests including migrants, refugees, and visiting organizations, and welcoming visitors (all in Spanish!)
- organize film nights, presentations and discussions, and other special events
- participate in reflection, planning, and collective decision-making regarding this work
- take initiative to care for the community (maintenance, gardening, painting, running errands or working with the Casa's Environmental Concerns Committee)

The Migration and Economic Programs are the other branch of Casa work. Interns play an active role in the programs, which include:

- working with and visiting partner organizations, groups and collectives in and around the city
- attending meetings of a network of activists dedicated to economies of solidarity
- providing accompaniment to refugees and migrants housed at the Casa
- attending events and activities of Mexican civil society

Interns can work full-time for the Casa, or have the option to work with one of the Casa de los Amigos' partner organizations in Mexico City. Keep reading for information about them, and please indicate which organization you would like to work for in the application.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Each intern can be placed with one partner organization where they will work 2 - 3 days a week. Each of these groups will provide a meaningful opportunity for interns to participate in their organization, learn more about Mexico City and Mexican civil society's responses to contemporary issues. Please note: partner organizations are subject to change.

Barrio Activo, A.C.

Barrio Activo works with marginalized youth in their community center, in schools and in public street events. "Barrio" was founded to offer local youth an alternative to gangs and violence in the home communities of the founders in Colonia La Pastora, a poor section of Mexico City north of the Casa. Intern activities will vary day-to-day. Interns will help with events and activities at the community center, planning and holding public street events ("Caravanas"), helping supervise summer courses with focuses in sports, art, music, civics, and more. Casa-CPGC interns have also led their own workshops on urban

dance, sexual health, and learning English. Barrio works with children, teens and young adults—and so the Barrio Activo intern should be excited to work with those populations. In July, Barrio Activo hosts a one-month summer course. During this time, interns work almost full time at Barrio Activo.

Casa Tochán

Meaning “Our Home” in Nahuatl, Casa Tochan is one of Mexico City’s *albergues* for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. The house holds up to 15 people who, through agreements with the Mexico City government and non-profit organizations, can stay for free while they get settled in the city. The house is located in the western part of the city (and is Metro-accessible). Interns participate in the daily life of Casa Tochan, helping to attend to guests, taking care of the space and offering suggestions about possible activities for the guests. This is a great opportunity for students who are outgoing, self-directed, flexible, and passionate about the rights of migrants and refugees.

Fondo MARIA

Fondo MARIA (*Mujeres, Aborto, Reproducción, Información, Acompañamiento*) is a program created by *Red Balance* that provides financial, psychological, and logistical support to women who need abortions. Abortion is legal in Mexico City—however, access to abortion is severely restricted or even illegal in many Mexican states. The first of its kind, Fondo MARIA helps women travel to Mexico City by assuming the costs, including transportation and lodging, and providing information so that all women have access to a safe abortion regardless of economic or social background. Interns work in their office supporting staff members with a range of tasks: from fundraising to translating public policy proposals to organizing educational material on reproductive rights. The CPGC intern should be someone passionate about women’s rights, organized, good with people and who looks forward to being in a fast-paced feminist Mexican non-profit.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Application

Before applying, please visit the Casa’s website and read the full length description of the internship program: <http://www.casadelosamigos.org/en/volunteer/casa-cpgc-internships/>. The deadline for this internship is **February 5, 2017** via the CPGC’s online application platform. Portions of the application are in Spanish.

Funding

During this ten-week program, the CPGC will cover interns’ programmatic and budgeted expenses to minimize the amount students pay out of pocket for food, housing, international and intercity travel, visas and vaccinations. The Center will pay the Summer Earning Expectation for students receiving financial aid in 2017-18.

Qualifications

Spanish proficiency (at least Advanced Intermediate-level Spanish) is **required** for this internship. The selection process includes an interview, some of which will be conducted over the phone in Spanish. We recommend that interested students make an appointment with the CPGC International Programs Coordinator Elias Mohr (emohr@haverford.edu) with more questions

Pre-Departure Expectations

In addition to the mandatory CPGC pre-departure weekend retreat (April 7-9, 2017), selected interns will be **required** to attend weekly mandatory pre-departure meetings. During these meetings, students will begin to work together to co-create a reading list and collective learning plan for summer 2017, and connect with the Casa staff and receive health advice from a travel doctor.

Return Expectations

Upon their return to campus, interns will complete coursework related to their internship. Participants in this program are *strongly encouraged* to enroll in ICPR 301: Human Rights, Development and International Activism