



Community Various Sites, Nicaragua June 1- August 10, 2017

In partnership with [ProNica](#), a Quaker organization founded in 1987 to build “sustainable cross-cultural relationships between the people of North America and Nicaragua,” the CPGC offers three internship opportunities to students interested in grassroots work. Through ProNica’s deep commitment to fostering solidarity at the interpersonal and community level, this opportunity will introduce students to the political, economic, and cultural histories of Nicaragua, a country graced by its natural beauty and the resilient spirit of its people as they work to overcome the aftermath of colonization, military interventions, economic exploitation, and natural disasters.

These 10-week opportunities to work in rural communities in Nicaragua begin with a group orientation in Managua, the capital. Upon arrival in Managua, interns will stay at Quaker House, meet ProNica staff, and root into the work of international solidarity movements. This week is an opportunity to learn more about Nicaraguan culture and get oriented to the capital while preparing for life in rural settings. From Managua, students visit each internship site, located in cities and villages in the central highlands.

Prior to submitting an application for one of the following internships, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with health, educational, environmental and economic indicators for Nicaragua. Mandatory pre-departure meetings will feature readings about the history of US-Nicaragua relationships, theories of structural violence and liberation theology, and practices of solidarity formation. This program of learning is designed to boost a student’s ability to build community once in-country and will help them gain an appreciation for the way in which international policies and interventions affect the lives of Nicaraguans.

Fundacion Popol Na, Managua

Founded in 1990, Fundacion Popol Na is dedicated to create an economy, democracy and relationships between human beings based in justice and equality. They invite a student from Haverford or Bryn Mawr College to work in their Managua office to work on their “Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development” programs, with a special focus on their campaigns related to the proposed trans-Nicaraguan canal. For more information, visit <https://popolna.org/programas/ambiente-y-cambio-climatico/>

Casa del Niño, San Ramon

In several communities around San Ramon, young people have begun to organize around healthcare and environmental issues. The indigenous community of San Pablo has asked for interns for summer 2016 to help them grow their community ecotourism project, and interns could work with other local communities mobilizing around issues including women’s empowerment, and access to healthcare. At the Casa del Niño,

interns participate in a number of community initiatives, and will need to be able to contribute to the organization with minimal supervision.

Successful applicants will have an interest in working in youth-led community organizing space and an interest in community-based ecotourism. Interns should have strong Spanish and be comfortable living in a small city and working with communities who live in rural settings.

For more information, please visit their ProNica-hosted site: <http://pronica.org/project/casa-del-nino/>
2015 intern: Sara Jaramillo '15

Domestic Violence Network of Rio Blanco

In 2014, the women's cooperative of Rio Blanco applied to ProNica's grant making program to establish kitchen gardens for fifty families affected by domestic violence. This initiative will provide two students with the opportunity to assist the project coordinator with promoting the garden program and other economic cooperatives to families in the Rio Blanco community. Additional work in the Rio Blanco city could include producing a weekly radio show, intake and support to families who have experienced domestic violence, website building and web development, translation, grant research and grant writing.

Successful applicants will have strong Spanish and a willingness to live and work in a rural community. Students will live with families in the intentional farming-based community of Martin Centeno. Students should be comfortable living in basic conditions, with intermittent power after sundown. Demonstrated interest or past experience working with families afflicted by domestic violence would be helpful. Rio Blanco is located five hours from Managua over bumpy rural roads. For more information, please visit their ProNica-hosted site: <http://pronica.org/project/domestic-violence-network-of-rio-blanco/>

NUTS AND BOLTS

Application

The deadline for this internship is **February 5, 2017** via the "Nicaragua Partnerships" application on the CPGC's online application platform: <http://cpgc-apply.haverford.edu/>.

For more information

Applicants are encouraged to **visit ProNica's website** for more information. For questions about the content and structure, please contact any of the 2015 interns listed above or Elias Mohr at the CPGC (emohr@haverford.edu). All interested students are encouraged to schedule a meeting to learn more! All students must **apply through the CPGC's online application system**, available on the CPGC's homepage: <http://cpgc-apply.haverford.edu/>.

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, language instruction, international and intercity travel, visas and vaccinations. The Center will pay the Summer Earning Expectation for students receiving financial aid in 2017-18.

Qualifications

Language: minimum of Advanced Intermediate or higher **Spanish**. Past coursework or life experiences that will help students build interpersonal connections in rural communities will be helpful, especially experiences that encourage the student to focus on Central America, domestic violence or family issues, or local economies.

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 after Spring Break. During these meetings, students will begin to work with one another as a team, prepare content for their relative sites through online learning tools, connect with the scholars and activists who have brokered these connections, and receive health advice from a travel doctor.

Behavior while in Nicaragua

Given the relatively rural setting of these communities, students are expected to dress modestly at their workplace (i.e. long pants/skirts and covering shoulders for men and women). As of December 2015, students are now permitted to ride as a passenger on motorcycles or mopeds: this rule can greatly expand the transportation options around Rio Blanco and San Ramon—and the College is trusting that accepted students will use this new privilege safely.

Return Expectations

Considering the content of this internship program and concentration on applied human rights work in post-conflict settings, students are encouraged to enroll in the CPGC-designed courses ICPRH301 “Human Rights, Development, and International Activism” or ICPR 302 “Bodies of Injustice” as their post-return course.