

**Casa de los Amigos**  
Mexico City, Mexico  
May 27 – August 5, 2019



### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

This 10-week experiential learning internship offers up to six 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 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 Casa's full-time staff and other full-time volunteers.

### **ABOUT CASA DE LOS AMIGOS, A.C.**

Casa de los Amigos is a Quaker Center for Peace and International Understanding. 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.

### **2019 PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

CPGC Fellows are immersed in all aspects of Casa work and life, gaining in-depth knowledge of a historic organization. Fellows divide their time between the Casa's Hospitality programs, one of the Casa's other programs (Migration, Peace and Spirituality, Environmental, or Economic Justice), and another Mexican organization in a field of interest, spending 2-3 days/week at each site. Fellows can also choose the option of working full-time at the Casa. Fellows live in the house with the other full-time staff, volunteers, and guests.

To facilitate the volunteer experience, the staff of the House coordinates with each student to find an appropriate organization to share their volunteering. The house maintains relations with various organizations that are dedicated to the issues of human rights, peace, social justice, solidarity economy, women and youth, community development, and more. We look for opportunities that reflect the interests and experience of students and we try to ensure that they have sufficient supervision and support during their time in Mexico. A weekly schedule and the specific responsibilities of each student will be decided on in collaboration with the leadership of the House and the other organization with whom you will work. Inside the house, responsibilities may include: support for the solidarity economy project; organizing materials in the Resource Center; organize educational events on the themes of peace, social justice, and migration; work in the guest house; support fundraising projects and administrative tasks.

**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 cooking breakfast and 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 Human Mobility, Peace and Spirituality, Environment, 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
- Translating documents or verbal communication from Spanish to English

### **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

Each Fellow has the option to be placed with one of the partner organizations 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 Activo 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.

#### **Fondo MARIA (Red Balance)**

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 have the opportunity to work with Fondo MARIA or with other Red Balance Projects. 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 sexual and reproductive rights. The CPGC intern should be someone passionate about LGBTQ+ and women's rights, organized, good with people and who looks forward to being in a fast-paced feminist Mexican non-profit.

### **Altepetl**

Mexican organization that works with communities in the South of Mexico, performs environmental development and promotes the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, also works with urban communities and conducts community strengthening processes to improve social coexistence and peace.

### **Casa Refugiados.**

Social organization of Casa de los Amigos that promotes the rights of refugees and operates the Local Refugee Integration Program in Mexico with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

### **Mexico City Monthly Meeting**

The Monthly Meeting of Friends of Mexico City, carries out social action with initiatives in conjunction with Casa de los Amigos, has a vacancy for the Amigo en Residencia program and promotes the Quaker values of community, peace, integrity, equality, simplicity and care of nature.

### **IIPSOCULTA**

Organization that promotes the rights of Mexican migrants in the United States and deported Mexicans, carries out community support in the communities of the city of Puebla and New York.

### **Mennonite Central Committee**

The Mennonite Central Committee is a strategic partner of the Casa de los Amigos, such as Iglesias de Paz, supports migrant assistance programs and organizations on the issue of migration, the volunteer would help the Committee's organizational needs and learn about regional advocacy issues about migration.

### **BRIGADA**

Mexican organization with international recognition that works with women victims of trafficking, helps to re-empower them and promote their rights so that they can break the cycle of trafficking.

### **Feria Multitrucke Mixihuca**

Fair and alternative economy project that generates solidarity economy networks and alternative education projects. Through an exchange fair, alternative currencies and more just, humane and solidarity economy initiatives.

### **NUTS AND BOLTS**

**Eligibility and Application Information:** This internship is open to Haverford and Bryn Mawr students. Before applying, please visit the [Casa's website](#) to learn more about their mission and work. Applicants must submit an application form, an unofficial transcript, and a recommendation form completed by a faculty member. Apply through [CPGC's website](#). Portions of the application are in Spanish.

**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 in Spanish.

**CPGC's Fellowships for Global Citizenship Program:** This summer internship is part of a larger fellowship that offers a comprehensive preparatory and reentry program along with funding and support during your summer engagement with La Casa de los Amigos. Prior to the summer internship, CPGC staff, faculty and community partners will help students build on their passions and capacities for ethical engagement and social change action. Fellows continue their journey through a re-entry course upon returning to campus in the fall. More specific information about these crucial elements of the Fellowship program can be found on the [CPGC website](#). **Interested applicants must meet with the Manager of International Programs, Stephanie Zukerman.**

Prior to departure (April/May), Fellows will be expected to attend meetings with their cohort to build connections with each other and the Casa staff, and to begin the logistical and emotional preparation for living abroad, including receiving health advice from a travel doctor.

**Stipend:** During this ten-week program, the CPGC will cover Fellows' expenses for food, flights and ground transportation, and lodging. The Center will pay the Summer Earning Expectation for students receiving financial aid in 2019-20.

**Deadline:** The deadline for this internship is Sunday, February 3, 2019 via the "Mexico Partnerships" application on the CPGC's online application platform. Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview in mid to late February.