

INFORMATION 2024

The BCA Borderlands Ambassador Intern Program

Intern Program Purpose: To provide a comprehensive and life-changing immersion experience into the wide-range of issues, perspectives and cultures in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

Intern Program Desired Outcome: The goal of the program is to raise up leaders for the world's complex problems, dispel myths about the borderlands and create Borderlands Ambassadors.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

BCA's internship program is open to students who...

- Are rising college sophomores through those in graduate school (minimum age is 18).
- Have a faculty sponsor if they are pursuing an academic project
- Possess a current, valid passport
- Some ability to speak Spanish (preferred)
- Demonstrate maturity and the ability to be flexible, adapt within unfamiliar situations, respect different cultural environments, work independently and without extensive supervision

The Internship Program sponsored by the Border Community Alliance (BCA) and Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense, A.C. (FESAC) serves young scholars and faculty seeking a bi-national immersion experience that combines political, economic, humanitarian, environmental and social science research with unparalleled opportunities for service and exploration in the U.S./Mexico borderlands.

Context:

The US/Mexican border is a dynamic and rapidly evolving region whose economic, social, political and cultural future is of critical concern to the entire hemisphere. The impact of NAFTA on small farms in Mexico and the rise of the maquiladora factories in border towns which employ millions, public policy on immigration and border security, cross-border business and economies, environmental and water issues, relationships with indigenous populations on both sides of the border, educational and cultural exchanges with Mexico, and the powerful history of the region—all these topics offer unprecedented opportunities for study and service. BCA and FESAC, as one of the few US/Mexico NGO cross border partnerships, bridge the border for interns, enabling them to explore its reality – past, present, and future.

History:

The Internship Program began in spring 2011. It has hosted undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students and faculty from Stanford University, University of San Francisco, Sciences PO (Paris), Loyola University (Chicago), University of Wisconsin, and Muskingum University (Ohio), McGill, St. Mary's, Maryville College, North Carolina, George Washington, Hamilton College and many others. The program is in its 13th year. It offers a 6-week summer program (June, July).

Internship facts:

- Dates: June 11-July 27, 2024. (Please arrive by 5pm on June 11, and depart after 6pm on July 27.)
- Stipend: \$1,200.
- Housing and transportation within Arizona provided. Opportunities for individual collaboration with nonprofit agencies, universities and businesses in both the U.S. and Mexico. Part time community service projects with nonprofits in the Nogales, Arizona & Nogales, Sonora, region.
- The opportunity to improve the ability to converse in Spanish.
- Intern Activities – Samples:
- (focus of activities may be determined by individual academic research and thesis requirements)
- • 2 days (12-16 hours) per week of nonprofit community service time; remaining 3-4 days/week of structured activities/trips
- Learn about the immigration process/ humanitarian aid at migrant resource centers in Nogales, Agua Prieta, Sasabe, and/or Sonoyta, Sonora, Mexico and in the field.
- Cultural immersion and a chance to improve Spanish language skills.
- Meet with nonprofit leaders, government officials, community leaders and other stakeholders in the border region, including Arizona, Mexico, the Tohono O'odham Nation and other indigenous nations.
- Learn about the cross-border history and the continual cultural exchange of the region.
- Study the economics of the region - more than 75% of U.S. produce comes in through Nogales, Sonora/Arizona and visit a local maquiladora.
- Field trips to communities in Arizona and Mexico.
- Opportunities to attend Border Community Alliance (BCA) Board meetings and contribute to the development of a nonprofit organization focused on the dynamic issues of the borderlands.

- Work with two agencies (BCA and FESAC), located in both the US and Mexico, and learn how these two groups work together to strengthen programs of border community development and philanthropy.

COVID Policy:

- Proof of COVID vaccination required: must be fully vaccinated, including booster shots.
- Follow all current CDC health & safety protocols in the US & Mexico; following US State Department guidelines for COVID & safety:
<https://www.state.gov/covid-19-recovery/>

Border Community Alliance History:

The Border Community Alliance is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with offices in Tubac, Arizona. BCA, together with its Mexican community foundation partner, FESAC (www.fesac.org), based in Nogales, Sonora, supports the educational, social public policy, humanitarian, cultural and economic development of the US/Mexico border region to improve the quality of life for border communities.

For more information about BCA and the Internship Program, visit our website at: www.bordercommunityalliance.org Email: interns@bordercommunityalliance.org
Telephone: (520) 398-3229

Note: Interns should be mature individuals with a clear idea of what they hope to achieve, a faculty sponsor if they are pursuing an academic project, some ability to converse in Spanish, and the ability to work independently without extensive supervision. Prior international travel, service and study experience is a plus. **Interns must possess a current valid passport.**