Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala

Monday, June 1, 2015 - Sunday, July 26, 2015
(June 1 – June 27 online; June 28 – July 26 in Guatemala)

THE PROGRAM

The U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala program builds on the expertise U21 institutions have to offer in social entrepreneurship, online and blended learning, international collaboration, service learning, and a common commitment to global citizenship.

Individual U21 Member institutions already offer study abroad programs on the topic of social entrepreneurship, and some with Guatemala as the program destination. The proposed U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps program differs from existing offerings in that it is a tailored approach to study abroad that combines global collaboration, new technologies and impact-oriented learning activities.

During the fieldwork phase of this program, students will be placed with Social Entrepreneur Corps, a social enterprise that effectively utilizes social entrepreneurship as an international development approach in Latin America. Students will work directly with Social Entrepreneur Corps field professionals and social entrepreneurs in Guatemala to help establish new, and grow existing, micro-consignment supported businesses.

The benefits include exposure to economic theories of social entrepreneurship and active engagement with case study analyses, Spanish language, and Guatemalan and Mayan culture. The students will experience living with the local families and working intensively with community service organizations, and local social entrepreneurs. Our students will make a tangible difference in people’s lives, while also acquiring the knowledge, skills, and habits necessary to become socially aware, active global citizens. The program is designed as a short-term summer (June/July) opportunity for U21 students. U21 students are encouraged, but not required to take this program for academic credit. This program aims to complement the U21 Summer School and Global Issues Program.

NOMINATION PROCESS:

Each U21 institution is invited to submit one guaranteed and up to four ranked reserve student nominations using the nomination form found on the UConn Education Abroad website which will be emailed to each university’s U21 Student Mobility Representative along with the...
TARGET POPULATION

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Undergraduate student currently enrolled in a Universitas 21 member institution
- Class status: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Year, 3\textsuperscript{rd} Year, 4\textsuperscript{th} + Year
- Academic area: all
- Recommended GPA: 3.4 (US) or equivalent
- Working Language:
  - Instruction will be primarily in English
  - Fieldwork will be primarily in Spanish (intensive instruction on site). Prior knowledge of Spanish is helpful, but by no means mandatory.
- Proven interest in international development work
- Nominated as potential participant by the home university

SELECTION CRITERIA (EVALUATED THROUGH ESSAY AND INTERVIEW):

- Strong motivation for participation
- Proven ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Strong interest in helping to empower others
- Ability to empathize with individuals of diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds
- Open-mindedness
- Flexibility
- Willingness to work hard under challenging developing country conditions
- Sense of humor

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

All nominated students (guaranteed and reserves) will be invited to complete an online application through the University of Connecticut’s study abroad application system. Applications must include a CV and a two-page essay detailing their motivation, experience and expectations in relation to the program.

Skype interviews will be conducted with selected applicants. Acceptance letters will be sent out on April 20, 2015.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This program can be credit bearing, according to each university’s policy. UConn will assign six credits to this program.

PRE-DEPARTURE: JUNE 1 – JUNE 27, 2015

The students will join a U21 Virtual Global Classroom, where they will learn about Social Entrepreneurship and Guatemalan Politics and Culture.

Participation in the pre-departure phase is compulsory for the continuation of the program.

IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION AND FOUNDATION BUILDING: JUNE 28 – JULY 5, 2015

Upon arrival in the country, all students spend the first segment of their time in Xela (Quetzaltenango), participating in orientation sessions, living with local families, studying Spanish intensively, participating in development discussions, visiting nearby development and relief organizations and participating in project content and technical training.
FIELD WORK: JULY 6 – JULY 20, 2015

Students travel back to Antigua and visit different satellite work sites, staying with additional local families, in group living settings and/or in hotels. Students will work with Peace Corps Volunteers, local community service organizations, and local businesses.

CONCLUSION, DELIVERY AND PRESENTATION: JULY 20 – JULY, 24, 2015

All participants return to the Social Entrepreneur Corps headquarters site in Antigua for the final days of the program. At this time the projects are completed and presented, Spanish evaluations are conducted and participants stay with the local families one last time.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed based on news analyses while in Guatemala, and reflections on experience and final presentation at the end of the trip. Throughout the program, students will be invited to contribute to a group blog, sharing and reflecting on their experience. Please read the blogs of the program participants:
2012: [http://today.uconn.edu/letters-from-guatemala/](http://today.uconn.edu/letters-from-guatemala/)

TIMELINE

Nomination deadline: Monday, March 9, 2015
Online application deadline: Monday, March 30, 2015
Application review and Skype interviews: Monday, April 6 – Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Decision date: Monday, April 20, 2015
Commitment deadline: Friday, May 1, 2015
Online classes: Monday, June 1, 2015 – Saturday, June 27, 2015
Guatemala arrival: Sunday, June 28, 2015
Final Presentations: Monday, July 20-Friday, July, 24, 2015
Guatemala departure: Sunday, July 26, 2015

PROGRAM FEES

USD $3,400 / student, not including airfare, visa costs and health insurance.

CONTACT

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