



Volunteer/Internship Program



AmeriSpan
THE BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES



Why Choose an AmeriSpan Volunteer/Internship Program?

AmeriSpan's volunteer/internship program allows you to gain unique insight into another country's culture and obtain valuable work experience in an international setting. Some reasons to let AmeriSpan organize your volunteer/internship experience include:

- **Our expertise** - We at AmeriSpan have traveled, studied and worked abroad. Many of our staff have participated in volunteer/intern programs ourselves. Site visits are an integral part of our quality assurance. We are able to advise you so that you can select the placement and location that best meets your needs.
- **Wide selection of placements** - AmeriSpan represents over 150 local organizations in Latin America and Spain. Therefore, we guarantee that we have something interesting for everyone.
- **Total immersion cultural programs** - The combination of language instruction, local lodging experience, and your work placement, gives you valuable experience with the language, culture and everyday life of the destination country.
- **Value for Money** - You receive language classes, lodging, local food being prepared for you, work experience and important life lessons - and you'll probably spend less than if you'd stayed home!
- **Flexibility** - You can start the first Monday of every month, year round. You can stay as long as you want. You're not locked into set times.
- **Personalized experience** - Ultimately, this is your trip! We arrange your program so you can meet your personal goals. You will not be part of a large group.
- **Onsite support** - There is an Onsite Coordinator in every country for participants. These coordinators are locals in charge of selecting volunteer/intern placements, monitoring the quality of the overall experience, and offering you onsite support.



Where & What?

AmeriSpan offers volunteer and non-paid internship projects in a wide variety of fields throughout 12 Spanish & Portuguese-speaking countries. Our website contains a listing of most of the placements we offer, with detailed information about the hosting organization, participants' tasks, lodging information and costs.

Some of the areas where we offer placements include:

- **social work** (orphanages, battered women's shelters, etc.)
- **healthcare** (clinics, hospitals, NGOs)
- **education** (ESL teaching, teacher's aides, etc.)
- **marketing, accounting and other business fields** (at large and small companies)
- **hospitality** (hotels, travel agencies, tourism bureaus, etc.)
- **environmental work** (national parks, turtle conservation, animal rescue, horticultural work, etc.)
- **customized placements** (in some countries, we can organize a placement in an area not listed which is tailored to your exact needs)

Am I Eligible?

As we represent over 150 different, mostly local organizations the requirements that you need to meet, vary per project. Please check if you meet the requirements prior to enrolling. Requirements can include, but are not limited to: Age (min.18 yrs old), language level, education and/or work experience.



John A. Doe
123 Walnut Drive
Any town, USA

Related Experience
International Internship - Spent 2 months in Bolivia at a web design firm where communication and assignments were in Spanish for a variety of clients.

Educational Background

Application to Graduate School
List any languages other than English that you speak? Spanish
List work experience related to your intended major: 3 months at Finance and Consulting company in Cordoba, Argentina performing a variety of tasks for international clientele.

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Residency

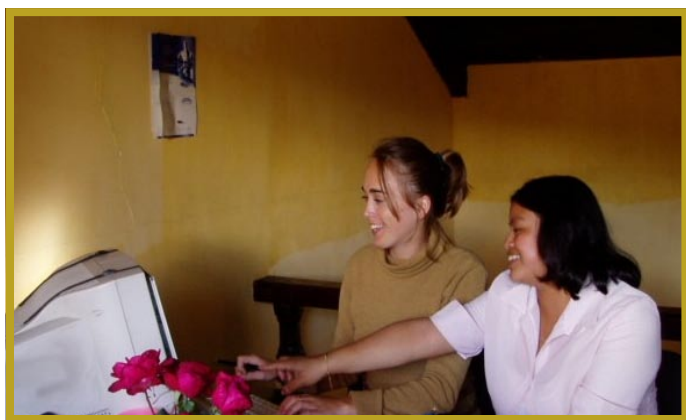
Dear Dr. Smith

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Jane Doe for your residency position. I was able to get to know her during the 2 months she assisted me at the Cancer Prevention Clinic in Merida, Mexico...

Application for NGO
Do you have a background in Spanish, Portuguese or French? Yes, Spanish & Portuguese
Have you traveled to any lesser-developed countries? Brazil & Ecuador
Have you volunteered before? Spent 2 months volunteering at an orphanage in Maceio, Brazil

Who Does This?

We welcome participants of all ages and backgrounds into our program. Past participants include: students, school groups, working professionals, retirees, as well as independent travelers of all ages. Since 1997 we have sent over 1,200 volunteers to Latin America and Spain from all over North America and Europe. Volunteering/interning abroad affords you the opportunity to gain or develop further international work experience and language skills. You may also have an opportunity to exchange views and share your knowledge with the local people, a very rewarding experience for all parties involved. In addition, if you have any of the personal goals listed below than this program is right for you!



- Lend a helping hand to developing countries and underprivileged communities
- Obtain true fluency in a foreign language
- Gain/expand international work experience
- Work to preserve and protect the environment
- Prepare for relocation to another country
- Meet people from other cultures

What is Expected of Me?

Although these are unpaid positions, please consider it a job. Please dress appropriately and recognize standard business etiquette (e.g. be on time, be respectful of superiors, etc.). Scheduling "time off" during your placement is not appropriate. Please schedule all independent travel, extended trips and visits from family/friends to occur after your work commitment has ended.

In Latin America and in Europe the concept of an internship or volunteer placement is different than in the United States, and you'll often work in underfunded and understaffed organizations. Please be prepared to receive little guidance and supervision. Initiative is key!

How Does It Work?

Our volunteer/internship program comes as a complete package. The initial portion of the program is 2 weeks or more of language courses and homestay, followed by an additional 4 weeks (or longer if you so choose) of volunteering/interning at a local organization with lodging provided throughout.

Language Immersion courses are an integral part of your experience. At all placements, only the local language will be spoken so it's crucial to your experience that you can communicate well with your supervisor and coworkers. The



better you speak the language, the more enriching your experience will be and the more you'll be able to do! Even fluent speakers benefit from a refresher and an exercise in the local accent and colloquialisms.

We offer different types of lodging. In most cases you have the option to stay in a private room with meals with a local host family or choose a private or shared room in shared lodging with kitchen facilities.

Making a Difference

Since the beginning, AmeriSpan has been active in "making a difference." Over the years, we have participated in numerous projects including rainforest preservation, literacy projects in Hispanic communities, and aiding Latin American health-related organizations.

In 2004, AmeriSpan's efforts resulted in more than \$250,000 worth of medical supplies reaching needy communities in Latin America. For 2005, we plan to send \$500,000 worth of medical supplies, food and other goods. We make this happen in three ways including sponsoring ocean containers of supplies; encouraging our participants to bring donated goods with their checked baggage; and making direct cash donations to various international relief organizations.

Spanish, Portuguese &
Other Language Programs

Volunteer & Internship
Placement

Specialized Programs
(eg. SALUD Medical Spanish)

Academic
Study Abroad

www.amerispan.com
Additional Information & Programs

Study & Travel
Resources

Executive Intensive
Programs

US & Canada Based
Programs

Teen Programs &
Summer Camps

Past group leaders say it best

"AmeriSpan was one of the few organizations that I found that let me do volunteer work with my own itinerary, as an independent traveler, as opposed to a member of a group with a set schedule".
Student, Connecticut

"The local volunteer coordinator is very amiable and helpful. He goes beyond his job of assigning volunteers to providing information on cultural awareness and local cultural programs"
Manager, New York

"My decision to volunteer and live in Costa Rica resulted in success, adventure and goals met"
Teacher, Maine

"I was looking for a rather specific placement and I was able to find exactly what I wanted with minimum fuss."
Student, Connecticut

"This type of experience encourages such skills as flexibility, patience, and a positive attitude. These are qualities that are important not only for a future career, but also for living life with an open mind."
Student, Wisconsin

"I had never stayed with a people so remote from my own culture, yet we found common ground and established friendship. We taught each other things about our respective worlds. I think it is safe to say, that my experience with AmeriSpan in Guatemala was a life-changing experience."
Server, Norway

"All in all, I have nothing but positive things to say. I had a wonderful time, and I can't recommend AmeriSpan more. Everything was made easy and it was just so much fun"
Student, Washington DC



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