



# PERSONALISED INTERNSHIPS

in Rural Andean Communities, Ecuador



**Ecology & Sustainable Agriculture**  
**Eco Tourism & Community Tourism**  
**Culture, Anthropology & Development**  
**Economic Solidarity & Social Enterprise**  
**Architecture & Sustainable Construction**  
**Marketing & Business Development**

# Ecology & Sustainable Agriculture

Ideal studies: Environmental Sciences, Landscape Ecology, Conservation, Regenerative Agriculture

## Overview

Bring your passion for the protection and regeneration of the natural world to the diverse, interconnected ecological regions of the Bolívar province, Ecuador.

With support from our team, you will design and implement a personalized internship to address one of the several environmental challenges affecting the area.

You will have the chance to build relationships with local stakeholders to identify a sustainable way to take your internship from research to reality!

## The Challenge

Ecuador is the 8th most biodiverse country in the world, yet only the 74th biggest. The province of Bolívar, with ecosystems ranging from highland deserts (4,000m+) to the coastal tropical forests (300m) has some of the country's widest variety of flora and fauna.

However many of these habitats have been - or are at risk of - permanent damage through industrialized agriculture, deforestation and mining. The reasons for this are complex and are often the simple desire for people to earn an honest living to support their families.

We bring diverse perspectives from around the world to design innovative solutions to these problems, so that we can stimulate socioeconomic development while also regenerating these delicate ecosystems.

Through your internship, you will learn about the regional challenges. Once you have selected one that excites you, you will receive support to dive deep into the problem to understand the underlying causes, impacts and possible solutions. Possible solutions may include ideas such as sustainable agriculture practices, water harvesting and filtration, eco tourism or natural building.

If your research proves promising, will look for the resources to implement your project, and bring your ideas to life!



## Activities

- Research regional challenges
- Identify a personalized internship
- Build relationships with local stakeholders
- Investigate the causes of the problem
- Quantify the impact and likely trajectory
- Create a project action plan
- Research possible alternatives
- Build a realistic plan and strategy
- Create a predicted timeline
- Develop a budget
- Present your findings to local stakeholders

## Skills Development

- Community engagement
- Project management
- Research and data management
- System design
- Presentation skills
- Integrated teamwork abilities
- Immersion in a unique local culture in its native environment
- Improve your Spanish abilities

# Eco Tourism & Community Tourism

Ideal studies: Eco-, Sustainable-, Cultural- and Community-Tourism Management, Outdoor Leadership



## Overview

Our goal is to support the sustainable development of one of Ecuador's poorest provinces while protecting and celebrating the huge diversity of cultures, traditions and ecosystems it has to offer.

In this exciting opportunity, you will be a pioneer in uncovering the best regional, ecological and cultural attractions. With support from our team, you will be able to train local people and design packages that will improve their future.

You will leave with a real-world experience and the knowledge that you have made a meaningful difference in the world.

## The Challenge

The province of Bolívar has one of Ecuador's biggest variety of ecosystems - hiking at over 5,000m on Chimborazo volcano down to the virgin rainforests of the coastal tropics. The capital, Guaranda, is the best-known location for Carnival and as 47% of the local population are indigenous, there's a wealth of culture.

However, as one of Ecuador's least developed provinces, local people are choosing to destroy the forests for farming and reject their culture in search for a more desirable western lifestyle.

In contrast, many in the Global North are looking to rediscover cultures and landscapes untainted by globalization, in search for a life with more meaning and beauty.

Sustainable tourism has the potential to provide locals with a decent living while protecting and celebrating their traditional ways of life. Many parts of Ecuador have already been over-exploited by commercial tourism, making this unlikely, but Bolívar still has the potential to develop sustainably.

In your personalized internship, you can be a part of this change by channeling your passion towards discovering some of the hidden gems in the region and designing tourism activities alongside local people to build a better future.

## Activities

- Search the region for potential activities
- Identify a personalized internship
- Build relationships with local stakeholders
- Co-create tourism activities and services
- Build a budget & implementation timeline
- Calculate potential income for activities
- Create a project plan for the next steps
- Present your findings to local stakeholders
- Support in any next steps as required (eg. training, marketing, networking)

## Skills Development

- Research and data management
- Community & stakeholder engagement
- Project management
- Activity design
- Presentation skills
- Integrated teamwork abilities
- Immersion in a unique local culture in its native environment
- Improve your Spanish abilities

# Culture, Anthropology & Development

Ideal studies: Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Sociology, International Development

## Overview

Bring your curiosity out of the classroom and use your skills to benefit the indigenous peoples of the central Ecuadorian Andes.

With support from our team, you will design and implement a personalized internship to understand local cultures and traditions with the goal of helping preserve, build pride and celebrate them while enabling a dignified and prosperous future.

You will work directly with community leaders and stakeholders on a project that will benefit your studies and the local population - your insights and findings may prove foundational in future projects.

## The Challenge

Guaranda is one of Ecuador's poorest regions. Most of the indigenous people, which make up almost half of the population, live in rural communities where poverty is over 40%.

500 years after the Spanish colonization, globalization has the potential to be the final nail in the coffin of these historic cultures; many young people are moving to the cities to support their families and the native language (Kichwa) is at risk of extinction. We may only have a generation or two to ensure the survival of these cultures.

Fortunately, there are some younger people who want to continue the traditions of their ancestors and rebuild cultural pride in their societies. With your help, we can work towards understanding the underlying patterns which could be the determining factors as to whether these initiatives fail or succeed.

For your internship, we will help you specify an area of interest for your study and help you build relationships with the local communities. Your research has the potential to provide the crucial understanding that could help communities preserve and regenerate their culture while enabling them to become part of the global community in the 21st century.



## Activities

- Understand local context and challenges
- Identify a specific area of investigation
- Build relationships with local communities
- Participate in community activities
- Perform an anthropological assessment
- Co-create potential solutions to problems
- Produce a report of your findings
- Present your findings to local stakeholders

## Skills Development

- Community engagement
- Project management
- Research and data management
- System design
- Presentation skills
- Integrated teamwork abilities
- Immersion in a unique local culture in its native environment
- Improve your Spanish (& Kichwa!)

# Economic Solidarity & Social Enterprise

Ideal studies: Social Economics, Social Entrepreneurship, Innovative Finance



## Activities

- Investigate successful local models
- Research local resources and opportunities
- Identify your personalized internship scope
- Build relationships with local stakeholders
- Design and perform a feasibility study
- Build a realistic plan and strategy
- Create a predicted timeline
- Develop a budget
- Present your findings to local stakeholders
- Support any next steps as required (eg. training, marketing, networking)

## Skills Development

- Community engagement
- Project management
- Research and data management
- System design
- Presentation skills
- Integrated teamwork abilities
- Immersion in a unique local culture in its native environment
- Improve your Spanish abilities

## Overview

Help identify the opportunities for some of Ecuador's poorest people to build businesses that can meet the triple bottom line and be realistically achieved within a different cultural context.

With support from our team, you will design and implement a personalized internship that explores the business opportunities and economic solidarity structures that could impact thousands of lives.

Your work alongside the local population will help stimulate their enthusiasm and potentially result in your project being realized.

## The Challenge

40% of the rural population around Guaranda live in poverty, living on a small range of commodity crops and minimal livestock. With living and energy expenses rising, these people feel it most - the majority already live on less than half the minimum wage.

There are examples in the region of socially-oriented businesses that have brought certain populations out of poverty, but they haven't been successfully replicated elsewhere.

We're looking for interns with a passion for making a difference in the world and the creativity to explore options that will work both in the business world and in the unique cultural context in the province of Bolívar.

In your internship, you will work with our team to analyze a range of business possibilities and focus on the one with the greatest potential. Then, alongside local stakeholders, you can develop a feasibility study of its implementation and possibly test a minimum viable product.

If your research proves compelling, it could be used as a foundation for local communities to begin generating a dignified income and improve the level of education.

# Architecture & Sustainable Construction

Ideal studies: Sustainable Architecture, Bioclimatic Design & Buildings, Green Construction & Restoration

## Overview

If you want to combine traditional building design and techniques with social housing, this internship is for you. Come and learn about how adobe homes are made in the Andes, and help us restore buildings that otherwise will fall into ruin.

With support from our team, you will take on a design and/or build project in low-income communities in the province of Bolivar.

Your input will go towards helping people provide spaces that will later be used to receive tourists and volunteers, bringing much needed income into the community.

## The Challenge

Before the industrialisation of construction, local people in the Andes built houses out of the rich clay soils available to them.

Now, however, globalization has meant that local people are choosing to build single-skin, concrete buildings. Whilst these are quicker to build and considered more 'modern', they are also colder, more expensive, less ecological and more at risk during an earthquake.

In the area, there are hundreds of adobe buildings that have been left to ruin, and as these traditional techniques are lost, so is the cultural heritage captured in the architectural beauty.

Our vision is to revitalize these traditions while we can, by restoring derelict houses to their former glory and building new sustainable structures with new ideas brought from around the world.

In your internship, you will work directly in the local communities on a practical project. Your work will be used to develop structures in disadvantaged populations and could be used to create accommodation for future visitors - bringing money into the local economy - or simply building a dignified place for people to live.



## Activities

- Research traditional building techniques
- Identify a project in the community
- Build relationships with local stakeholders
- Create a project action plan
- Build a timeline & budget
- Either create the architecture designs necessary and/or work on the build using sustainable ideas and techniques
- Present your work to local stakeholders

## Skills Development

- Community engagement
- Project management
- Research and data management
- Building/restoration design
- Presentation skills
- Integrated teamwork abilities
- Immersion in a unique local culture in its native environment
- Improve your Spanish abilities

# Marketing & Business Development

Ideal studies: Marketing & Communications, Graphic Design, Social Entrepreneurship, Business Administration



## Activities

- Learn about our vision, models & strategy
- Work alongside the team and stakeholders
- Identify a personalized internship & goal
- Research possible strategies
- Create a project action plan
- Build a timeline & budget
- Implement your plan with support
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your plan

## Skills Development

- Real-world professional experience
- Business development and strategy
- Design, marketing and communications
- Community & stakeholder engagement
- Project management
- Research and data management
- Presentation skills
- Integrated teamwork abilities
- Immersion in a unique local culture in its native environment
- Improve your Spanish abilities

## Overview

If you want to put your marketing & business skills to the test and benefit disadvantaged communities in the Global South, this internship is for you.

You will be an integral part in the development of the cultural exchange center, with multiple stakeholders, customers and partners. You will help develop the business models and marketing activities that will ensure its long-term success.

Working closely with our core team, you will get hands-on experience within a young social enterprise and be able to implement ideas.

## The Challenge

40% of the population around Guaranda live in poverty, yet it has enormous human and cultural capital, presenting a fantastic opportunity for sustainable development if unlocked. With the current systems and structures, however, the likelihood of this happening is remote.

At El Terreno, we believe that cultural exchange has the potential to create a more prosperous, sustainable and meaningful world, which is why we're building a center for social innovation in one of the most unlikely places.

The organization is in its early stages, and as with anything innovative and a multi-cultural context, it provides novel challenges that require creative solutions.

We will create a personalized internship based on your interests so that you can bring your skills out of the classroom and into the real world.

Your efforts will be reflected in the success of an ambitious project that brings together local indigenous communities, NGOs, international volunteers, educational institutions and tourists from around the world.

# APPLICATION INFORMATION

We're Waiting to Hear From You!

## Who Are We?

El Terreno is a center of cultural exchange and social innovation in the heart of the Andes. We bring together local Ecuadorians and people from around the world to create a more meaningful, sustainable and prosperous world.

In collaboration with interns, partners, volunteers and the community, we work to regenerate local ecosystems, build pride in indigenous culture, support dignified socio-economic development and offer a wide variety of unique tourism experiences.

## Internship Programme

We're searching for passionate students looking for a unique hands-on internship - to improve your CV and make an impact in the world.

You will have a flexible work schedule, personal mentoring and the resources required to reach this goal.

You will live with a local family in a private room in close proximity to other international volunteers. Spend your free time experiencing the rich Ecuadorian culture and leave the project with new skills, friendships & unforgettable memories, as well as a meaningful piece of work that can help disadvantaged communities around the world.

### What's Included:

- Programme coaching & support
- Transport & materials budget (\$50/month)
- Accommodation (Private Room)
- Cooked lunches (Mon - Thu)
- WiFi & washing machine access

### What's Not Included:

- Flights, visas, vaccines or any other expenses to reach us
- Travel, health and work insurance
- Other meals
- Leisure time activities
- Spending money

**Start Date: Flexible**

## Application Process

- Send us your CV & cover letter
- Participate in an online interview
- Provide a reference
- Upon acceptance, complete required documents for your education provider
- Place your deposit
- Join us for a memorable experience here in the Ecuadorian Andes!



## Apply Now!

To apply or for more information, contact:

[joshua@elterrenoecuador.com](mailto:joshua@elterrenoecuador.com)  
+593 (0)98 197 1920

Casa Comunal,  
Recinto Atandahua,  
Vía Bramadero / San Juan,  
Parroquia Guanujo,  
Cantón Guaranda,  
Ecuador