



Internships in Nicaragua

2014 Info Sheet

Intern Responsibilities

Intern Project

VISEDAL internships in Nicaragua are uniquely tailored to maximize the impact of the experience for both interns and the VISEDAL scholars. Each intern is given the opportunity to propose his/her own project to carry out during his/her internship based on his/her interests and passions. Proposals for intern projects will be discussed with VISEDAL staff and finalized before the intern leaves for Nicaragua.

Tutoring and Other Responsibilities

Interns will also likely be asked to provide tutoring to VISEDAL scholars. The logistics of the tutoring sessions (e.g., location, frequency, specific role of the intern) will be determined when internships are arranged.

In addition, all interns will be asked to accomplish the following during their internships:

- Prioritize developing positive, encouraging relationships with the VISEDAL scholars
- Make efforts to consistently encourage and support the VISEDAL scholars
- Be good role models for our scholarship students
- Write for VISEDAL's blog and/or social media platforms with updates on their internship experience
- Assist with other VISEDAL activities, such as group trips, house visits, and other programming, as they arise

Skills and Qualities Needed

- Commitment to VISEDAL's beliefs and mission
- High proficiency in Spanish and English preferred (non-Spanish speakers should contact us about potential special arrangements)
- Experience working with youth
- A passion for education and working with youth
- High school diploma or equivalent (some college coursework preferred but not required)
- Exceptional initiative and willingness to launch and lead projects or activities
- Ability to work without supervision
- Travel experience in developing nations (not required, but recommended)
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Patience and flexibility
- Excellent communication skills
- Trustworthiness and dependability
- Creativity in developing an intern project and engaging VISEDAL scholars
- Perseverance in dealing with difficulties that can arise when living in a developing country

Work Locations

VISEDAL currently does not have its own facility; instead, we have limited access to a facility owned by another organization. We hope to be able to use that facility for intern programming; however, we cannot guarantee availability at this point. We will discuss arrangements as plans for the internship are finalized. If the facility is not available some days, it may be necessary for interns to interact with the VISEDAL scholars in alternate locations, such as coffee shops, restaurants, parks, the scholars' homes, etc. Interns must be comfortable with arranging alternative meeting locations with the scholars, with the help of VISEDAL staff.

Supervision

VISEDAL currently employs one full-time employee and one part-time employee in Managua. Our staff will assist with training and some programming, as well as be available to answer any questions interns might have. However, staff members may not be available to provide supervision every day. Interns will conduct some of their work without direct supervision from VISEDAL staff.

Schedule

The personalized nature of each internship makes it impossible to provide a standardized schedule. However, each intern can expect to work approximately 25–30 hours per week. Each intern's schedule will be determined after plans for his/her project have been finalized.

Time Commitment

We recommend a minimum 1 month time commitment. If you have a special project proposal for less than 1 month, please contact us to discuss it further.

Volunteer Trip Component

Interns may want to start their internship experience by participating in VISEDAL's Summer Volunteer Trip, which will take place from July 10–14. Trip costs (almost all inclusive) are \$350. For more information, visit www.visedal.org/trips.html.

VISEDAL's Responsibilities

- Assistance with developing and finalizing the intern project
- Preparation materials and guidance before the intern leaves for Nicaragua
- Airport pick-up and drop-off in Nicaragua
- Nicaraguan cell phone for use during intern experience
- Paid work-related expenses (e.g., transportation to work activities, cell phone minutes to communicate with our scholars and staff, supplies for activities, and meals with the VISEDAL scholars)
- In-country orientation at the start of the internship
- Support from VISEDAL staff both in Nicaragua and in the United States
- VISEDAL shirt
- Assistance with visa paperwork if staying beyond the 90-day tourist visa

Intern's Responsibilities

VISEDAL strongly encourages applicants to apply for grant funding to cover their financial responsibilities. VISEDAL is willing to assist applicants in applying for grant funding.

- Airfare (~\$450–\$900)
- Housing (~\$200–\$500/month). Most interns stay with Nicaraguan families, which typically costs around \$200/month. However, some prefer to stay in a hostel, which is more expensive. VISEDAL is happy to provide advice and logistical help regarding securing housing
- Cost of food (~\$200–\$300/month). For interns living with host families, there is often the option of enjoying a home-cooked dinner with the family for approximately \$1/day
- Personal expenses for free-time outings, cell phone minutes for personal use, etc. (~\$50–\$200/month)
- Cost of international health insurance (recommended—for short-term experiences, it usually costs ~\$50–\$60/ month)

Application Process

Prospective interns should fill out an Intern Application and submit it to Dylan Waugh at Dylan@visedal.org. Qualified applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview.

For More Information

- Visit the VISEDAL Volunteer or Intern page at <http://www.visedal.org/volunteer-or-intern.html>
- Contact Dylan Waugh at Dylan@visedal.org or 410-800-8555