

Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala

May 26 – July 18, 2014

(May 26 – June 21 online; June 22 – July 18 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.

“... participating in these projects has provided me with an opportunity to learn first-hand about working in a globalised world. Gaining an appreciation of the complex factors underlying different cultural perspectives has illustrated to me how important it is that economic analysis is highly contextualised, and has given me insight as to how this might be achieved.”

2012 U21 SEC in Guatemala
Student Participant

“...Our programme leaders supported us while also allowing us to be autonomous, and as a result I was able to develop skills such as teamwork, leadership, adaptability and problem solving. I would recommend the U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps to all students regardless of their study background, in particular those with an interest in learning more about social development, alternative business models, environmental sustainability or cultural diversity.”

2013 U21 SEC in Guatemala
Student Participant

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 two ranked reserve student nominations using the attached nomination form.

TARGET POPULATION

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- ◆ Undergraduate student currently enrolled in a Universitas 21 member institution
- ◆ Class status: 2nd Year, 3rd Year, 4th+ 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 1, 2014.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

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

PRE-DEPARTURE: MAY 26 – JUNE 21, 2014

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 22 – JUNE 29, 2014

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: JUNE 30 – JULY 11, 2014

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 12 – JULY 18, 2014

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 2012 program participants' blog here: <http://today.uconn.edu/letters-from-guatemala/>.

TIMELINE

Nomination deadline: March 1, 2014
Online application deadline: March 15, 2014
Application review and Skype interviews: March 15 – March 25, 2014
Decision date: April 1, 2014
Commitment deadline: April 10, 2014
Online classes: May 26, 2014 – June 21, 2014
Guatemala arrival: June 22, 2014
Final Presentations: July 12-17, 2014
Guatemala departure: July 18, 2014

PROGRAM FEES

USD 3,330 / student, not including airfare, visa costs and health insurance.

CONTACT

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