

Queen's University Faculty of Education Alternative Practicum NICARAGUA March 13 - April 10, 2010

Program Summary:

1. Practice teaching in an international school and/or in non-formal educational settings.
Elementary, secondary and adult education classes available. TESL option available.
2. Volunteering on a school improvement project alongside Nicaraguan educators.
3. Meeting inspiring individuals who have overcome adversity to become exceptional community leaders.
4. Visiting agencies advocating fair political, economic and social rights for children, youth, and families.
5. Enriching your personal and professional profile and stimulating your academic and career prospects.

Schedule:

March 13-14 – Fly to Managua (Saturday) and In-country orientation (Sunday)
March 15-19 – Volunteer service on a school improvement project (Monday-Friday)
March 20-21 – Pacific beach excursion (Saturday) and Lesson Prep (Sunday)
March 22-26 – Practice teaching in an international school or non-formal setting (Monday-Friday)
March 27-April 4 – Your time to explore Nicaragua! (Easter Break)
April 5-9 – Practice teaching in an international school or non-formal setting (Monday-Friday)
April 10 – Fly to Canada (Saturday)

Requirements

Teaching, learning and leadership skills as well as positive communication and group dynamic skills.
Willingness to contribute hands-on work to a school facility improvement project.
English required for international school placement; Spanish is helpful for non-formal settings.
Stable health and openness to self-discovery and cross-cultural learning is important.

Preparation Online resources are provided to facilitate essential pre-departure preparation.
What to bring, health and safety advice, group expectations, cross-cultural adaptation, country background info, Spanish phrases, travel logistics, and other details are comprehensively covered.

Transportation American, Continental, Delta, and TACA Airlines offer flights from Canada through the USA to Nicaragua. Participants assume responsibility for purchasing their own airfare and insurance. Assistance available upon request. Ground transport is by chartered bus, micro-bus, and taxi.

Accommodation and Food Clean, safe, and simple with selected host families all in the neighbourhood of Los Robles in central Managua. Participants may be in houses in pairs and share a bathroom and a bedroom with single beds. Breakfasts and dinners are prepared for participants; lunch is usually prepared or purchased. Bottled water is available. Optional outings to cafés and restaurants.

Educational Visits May be arranged to the Canadian embassy, international aid and non-governmental organizations, micro-credit lending groups, fair trade artisans, the municipal dump, schools, and clinics.

Recreational Excursions May be arranged to historical sites and to a concert, beach, lagoon, volcano, market, zipline, dance club, or fitness centre. Mural, cooking or Spanish classes upon request.

Organizer & Facilitator Gonzalo Duarte, B.Ed. (Queen's '89), is the president of Compañeros Inc. Since 1993 he has facilitated 40 service learning experiences for over 500 hundred youth and adult participants in 8 countries. A Canadian now living in Managua, Gonzalo and his staff will organize and accompany you through a safe and beneficial Alternative Practicum.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Principles:

The people responsible for organizing and facilitating your experience are professionals with years of experience and values tailored to your goals. Pricing fairly balances affordability for Canadians and financial viability for Nicaraguans. A modest income and fair wage recognizes staff's time, knowledge, skill, network, and level of responsibility for you and your experience.

A significant portion of your money goes toward employing workers, purchasing materials, and favouring small businesses in Nicaragua. Since 2001 Compañeros Inc has infused over US\$250,000 into local economies via coordinators, translators, guides, guest speakers, host families, service projects, donations, tourist sites, shops, restaurants, drivers, cooks, housekeepers, and equipment rentals.

Compañeros Inc is an educational and travel coordination company with long-term reciprocal relationships that bridge academic, non-governmental, and grassroots communities in Canada and Nicaragua. Compañeros is an incorporated Canadian company driven by a commitment to excellent educational practices and the demonstration of socially responsible entrepreneurship.

Price:

CA\$300 per person payable by/refundable until **November 30, 2009** includes:

- Advance communication and organization of Alternate Practicum experience
- Comprehensive preparation resources and unlimited pre-trip consultation
- Reservation assistance for all flight and travel insurance details
- Overhead expenses, contingencies, and fees
- GST (Registration # 86337-4310)

US\$1500 per person payable by/refundable until **January 30, 2010** includes:

- Ground transportation from airport arrival to departure
- 21 nights host family accommodation with 21 breakfasts, 21 dinners, and bottled water
- Funding for the school improvement project (labour and materials) March 15-19
- Management of alternate practicum placement from March 22-26 and April 5-9
- Travel advice and reservation assistance for Easter Break from March 27-April 4
- Excursions to historical sites and to a beach, lagoon, volcano, and market
- Meetings with, and donations of funds and/or goods to, 4 non-profit organizations
- hours of in-country guiding, translation, and logistical coordination
- 250 hours of in-country facilitation from March 13-April 10, 2010

The following is not included:

- Airfare and travel insurance = approx CA\$800 - early booking recommended
- Lunches during school placement (week 2 + 4) and optional activities = approx US\$100 total
- Accommodation, food, and transportation during the Easter Break from March 27-April 4
- Passport - no visa or immunizations are mandatory for Canadian passport holders
- Arbitrary fluctuations in currency, oil, food, or airfare rates that result in unforeseen surcharges

[Inquire about the Elliott Travel Fellowship or Uptis International Study Award in the Placement Office](#)

Participants are required to submit a complete and accurate **registration form** with emergency contact, health, and food restriction information; insurance, passport, photo, and reference awareness consent initializations; personal profile information; and, a signed liability waiver form.

Participants must carry a valid **passport** with an expiry date 6 months beyond the date of return. The name in their passport must match their plane ticket and registration. Participants are responsible for ensuring proper documentation for entry/exit via countries of transit and destination.

Participants are responsible for determining their own for trip cancellation, interruption, health, and baggage **insurance** coverage needs and demonstrating proof of coverage before departure.

The organizers reserve the right at any time before or during the trip to **cancel and revoke registrations** and refund participants in part or in full should they perceive correctly or incorrectly the participant constitutes a threat to the well-being and security of the program, other participants, and/or partner organizations. Should Compañeros Inc not be able to deliver the stated program it will endeavour to provide comparable alternatives and/or refund amounts remaining after existing liabilities are paid. Refunds for voluntary participant withdrawal are made entirely at the discretion of Compañeros Inc.