

## Field Internship with EcoLogic Development Fund Local Partner(s) – Central America

**Internship Description:** Field Intern

**Reports to:** Dave Kramer, Sr. Manager for Impact, Learning, & Innovation

### ABOUT ECOLOGIC

EcoLogic works to empower rural people to restore and protect tropical ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems provide us all with the essentials that sustain us. This includes clean air and water, fertile soil, and a stable climate. We currently work in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Belize. These nations house some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world. Yet they are beset by poverty and other development challenges. We believe that the preservation of natural places is critical to the survival of us all. And those living near or in threatened ecosystems are the best suited to steward the planet. They depend every day on their forests, water and soil to survive. Since 1993, EcoLogic has collaborated with hundreds of rural and indigenous communities in Mesoamerica. We provide tools, training and resources to local communities. We listen and respond to their needs and goals. And we help them balance conservation priorities with natural resource consumption needs.

In relation to this internship posting, one of the most valuable resources we've been able to bring to the table over the years has been human resources, specifically in the form of field interns. Some examples from our website/blog include: Anne Elise Stratton, Julian Moll-Roczek, and Maura Fitzgerald.

We are a multicultural organization that relies on bilingual communication. Our official language seems to be Spanglish, though every all-staff meeting is facilitated in Spanish. EcoLogic's US office is based in Cambridge, MA; our regional (Mesoamerican) headquarters is in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala; and our staff and partners are spread across the places we work, spending a large part of their time in the field, often out of range of reliable internet service (in Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico; Olanchito and La Ceiba, Honduras; Barillas, Huehuetenango, Totonicapan, Livingston, and Playa Grande, Guatemala; and Punta Gorda, Belize). This adds to the richness and complexity of managing our work, and we are committed to being rooted in communities while serving as a bridge between them, sharing lessons learned across the region – adapting tools, methods, and hard-won knowledge in service to both people and nature.

### SUMMARY OF INTERNSHIP

EcoLogic seeks an intern, or team of interns, for the fall and/or spring semester(s) who will serve one of our local partners to achieve their conservation and development goals. His or her tasks will vary depending on partner need and the intern's own interests and needs (e.g. practicum / research requirements for a degree). S/he may engage in communications work (video, photography, radio, web, written word, etc.), meeting facilitation, workshop design and delivery, data collection and analysis, staff training, appropriate technology, community outreach, office support, and much more.

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR INTERNSHIP

#### Education:

- Studying toward a degree in a relevant field (e.g. Geography, International Development, Conservation Biology, Environmental Studies, Latin American Studies, Spanish, Communications, Journalism), ideally with significant study abroad experience in Spanish-speaking country. Master's Degree candidates strongly preferred.

#### Experience, Skills, and Qualities:

- Required:
  - Highly proficient in oral and written English and Spanish
  - Empathy, sense of humor, and fine-tuned ability to communicate interculturally and ability to operate effectively and respectfully in a multicultural environment.

- Can-do attitude in face of uncertainty; willingness to roll up sleeves w/ a variety of challenges inherent to international work in rural environments
- High proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, and PowerPoint), Google Apps, and collaborative meeting tools (Skype, GoTo Meeting, BlueJeans, FormHub, and GotoMeeting)
- Major pluses:
  - Travel and work/living experience in rural Latin American communities
  - Specialized skills likely to be of particular value to local partners and EcoLogic, including media skills
  - Facilitation, presentation, community outreach, and/or instructional skills and experience
  - Experience and interest in blogging, mapping, and/or appropriate technology
  - Knowledge of Miradi / Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (all EcoLogic multi-year project plans are being re-designed in accordance with these standards, and serving as a bridge to partners could be quite valuable) [www.miradi.org](http://www.miradi.org)

### **HOW TO APPLY FOR THE INTERNSHIP**

Interns will begin in the fall and work through the winter break and/or spring semester. Start and end dates are negotiable, especially for this opportunity, which is based on local partner need and capacity. Candidates must be able to commit to full time work for at least three months. Interns often can combine field opportunities with scholarships, grants, and academic requirements, which we strongly encourage. EcoLogic and partner staff will assist the intern to complete a project with their college or university, if necessary, to receive academic credit.

To apply for this internship, please send (1) your resume, (2) a cover letter, (3) an idea for a project you would like to do (please keep it brief), and (4) a mock blog post written from the field as if you were on assignment with EcoLogic (for blogging inspiration, feel free to refer to EcoLogic's website for posts from past interns and staff visits to the field) to [work@ecologic.org](mailto:work@ecologic.org) with the internship title "Field Intern" in the subject header.

Thanks for your interest and commitment to the cause of conservation and community development!