



MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE  
INSTITUTO MONTEVERDE

# MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



## 2020 Virtual Internships

The Monteverde Institute offers and facilitates internships for those interested in contributing to our work in the Monteverde community and, in the process, gaining tools to advance sustainability in their own lifestyles, home communities, and academic studies.





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# MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## 2020 Virtual Internships

The Monteverde Institute was founded in 1986 to guide community development and encourage the positive aspects of a growing international tourism-based economy in a small community with a fragile environment. Place-based academic programs, applied research, and community initiatives interact to highlight sustainability lessons learned in the Monteverde experience and create spaces for cross-cultural exchange fostering peace, justice, and collaboration.

The mission of the Monteverde Institute Internship program is to provide unique opportunities that allow in-depth participation in community initiatives. Each intern holds a specific role in a selected project that results in a positive contribution to the Monteverde community. We do this while providing a solid support in academics, theory, methods, and communication.

Interns with the Monteverde Institute work with local experts involved in a variety of community and environmentally based initiatives that investigate or contribute to solutions to local issues. Students receive background information and the skill sets necessary to accomplish their tasks. Additionally, throughout the internship we provide multiple levels of supervision and expertise to ensure that the intern has the most authentic and beneficial experience possible. Furthermore, we require that all projects be presented publicly, so all internships end with accountability to and feedback from the community. All completed work is documented and cataloged in our digital, publicly accessible database for use by future generations. These learning internships help the MVI promote its mission *to advance sustainable living at the local and global level through place-based education, applied research, and collaborative community programs.*

The internships listed in this document are all available virtually and on-site. This catalog is available on our website (<https://monteverde-institute.org/virtual-internships.html>). For more options of **on-site internships**, please see the catalog on our website (<https://monteverde-institute.org/internship-opportunities.html>). If you are particularly interested in one of the internships listed in the 2020 catalog, please include it on your application, keeping in mind that not all internships can be offered in virtual format. Feel free to write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) with questions.

MVI virtual internships range from 2-12 weeks, requiring 15-20 hours per week of supervisor meetings and independent project work, plus Spanish class time if applicable. The exact schedule of your internship will be determined in conjunction with your supervisor.

If you wish to include **Spanish classes**, MVI recommends one credit hour for every 15 hours of class. In addition to Spanish classes, we have a list of virtual cultural activities to promote a stronger sense of connection to Monteverde. Please see our Virtual Spanish Classes flyer for more information (included at the end of this catalog), or write to Evelyn at [spanish@mvinstitute.org](mailto:spanish@mvinstitute.org).

Need **academic credit**? Please specify when you apply so we make sure requirements are met.



## Internship Pricing (USD)

Internship Duration:	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	6 weeks	8 weeks	10 weeks	12 weeks
Virtual Internship	\$590	\$685	\$780	\$1.030	\$1.280	\$1.530	\$1.780
Field Internship*	\$1.087	\$1.416	\$1.794	\$2.501	\$3.208	\$3.915	\$4.622
Spanish Classes	\$20 per hour up to 20 hours; \$19.50 per hour if 20 or more (see flyer at end)						
Cultural Activities	Ask us about options to get to know the Monteverde community virtually!						
Registration Fee	\$50						

\*Includes homestay with a local family (single room, 3 meals per day, laundry service), project transportation, MVI shirt. Prices include all administrative fees, taxes, supervision, and a contribution to the project related to the internship. Discount available for MVI alumni.

International wire transfer instructions will be included with invoice once application accepted.

To inquire about a Monteverde field internship extension to your virtual internship, please write to Luisa at [interns@mvinstitute.org](mailto:interns@mvinstitute.org). Pricing will be based on the total length of your internship if completed within one year. We hope to see you in Monteverde!

## To Apply

In order to be considered for an internship with the Monteverde Institute, please complete the [MVI Virtual Internship Application](#) and provide the documents listed below to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org).

- Curriculum vitae or resume, including:
  - Academic awards, honors, scholarships, or fellowships
  - Internship, volunteer, and employment history
  - Significant international travel experience (dates, duration, purpose)
- Two letters of recommendation



## General Intern Responsibilities

Interns and supervisors hold regular video meetings, followed by independent work on the project. The independent work may involve literature review, internet research, mind mapping, data entry, data analysis, visual presentation of results, translation, graphic design, writing, etc. The meeting schedule, expectations, specific responsibilities, and final products of the internship will be clearly defined between the intern and supervisor in the first week. Interns commit to engaging in all scheduled meetings, respecting confidentiality and proprietary use of data if relevant, providing the agreed-upon final product to the supervisor and MVI, and presenting the final product to the Monteverde community in a format accessible to the target audience (e.g. Facebook Live video presentation, written scientific report, presentation to stakeholder group). All projects will provide proper credit to participants and resources and be available as open access in our digital and/or physical library.

## Service Internships

Most of the internships described in this catalog are academic in nature, involving a close working relationship with and oversight by an expert in the field. In some cases, students receive credit or other recognition toward their degree from their home institution. **Service internships** contribute to more urgent needs of MVI projects, may require more advanced skills, and involve more independent work. Due to the greater commitment by the intern and less supervision, the cost of these internships is lower. If you are interested in one of the noted service internships, please contact Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) for more information.

## On-Site Options

All the virtual internships listed in this catalog are also available as on-site internships in Monteverde. We hope anyone who completes a virtual internship will visit us when it is possible! This could be through an extension to or the completion of your virtual internship, participation in one of our academic programs, an educational family vacation, or Spanish classes with homestay to get to know the community in person. Ask about discounts or other incentives on your in-person visit to Monteverde after completing a virtual internship. If you have an idea for a study abroad course through your university, please contact Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org).



## Internship Descriptions

**Currently MVI offers the following virtual internships in six focus areas:**

1. Environment and Conservation
  - a. Biological Sciences Data Analysis and Results Dissemination
  - b. Bat Ecology and Conservation Data Analysis and Results Dissemination
  - c. Wildlife Caught on Tape: Camera Trap Data Analysis
  - d. Watershed Management Plans for Drinking Water Springs
  - e. Interpreting Echolocation Calls of Leaf-nosed Bats
2. Geographic Information Systems
  - a. Supporting Connections: GIS Viewer Design and Implementation
  - b. Connecting Local Consumers and Producers: Interactive Map Design
  - c. Sustainability Virtual Tour: Interactive Map Design
3. Community Health
  - a. Food Security Program Evaluation
  - b. Climate Change, COVID-19, and Food Insecurity in the Bellbird Biological Corridor
  - c. Enfermedades Infecciosas: El Conocimiento Es Poder
4. Sustainability and Resilience
  - a. Social Permaculture: Designing for Community
  - b. Establishment, Management, and Impacts of Home Gardens Pre- and Post-COVID-19
  - c. The Future of Tourism Post-COVID-19: Opportunities for Innovation and Survival from Economic Adversity
5. Communications
  - a. From Monteverde to the World: Community Organization Communications
  - b. Communications for Productive Water Treatment Plant
  - c. Ecology and Natural History Media: Educational Video Production
6. Arts
  - a. Art, Education, and Communications

**We also offer virtual Spanish classes and cultural activities.  
See the flyer after the internship descriptions!**





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## Environment and Conservation

### Biological Sciences Data Analysis and Results Dissemination

**Description:** Monteverde is home to incredible biodiversity that is the subject of study for many scientists. Research is supported by, and informs, the Monteverde Institute's academic programs and community initiatives. The objective of this internship is to convert raw data into results usable for publication, informing conservation priorities, educating diverse local, national, and international audiences, and laying the groundwork for further research and conservation. This internship can contribute to research in areas such as neotropical migratory bird conservation, tropical habitat restoration, comparative forest integrity, bat distributions, water quality, and meteorological monitoring. Under the guidance of an MVI researcher, you will learn how to prepare and analyze scientific data, interpret results, and prepare the information for distribution to a wider audience (possibly including publication). Microsoft Excel proficiency and prior knowledge of statistics are preferable but not strictly required.

**Intern responsibilities:** Exact responsibilities will be defined with the supervisor and will depend on the specific research project, and could include literature review, data entry, data analysis and presentation (e.g. creation of graphs), writing, etc.

**Final products:** Final products could include visual presentation, manuscript for publication, blog content, reports for funding agencies, etc.

**Duration:** 2-6 weeks (+)

**Requirements:** computer, basic knowledge of MS Excel

**Supervisor:** MVI researcher or research affiliate

*This can be either an academic or **service internship** – write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) for more information.*





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## Environment and Conservation

### Bat Ecology and Conservation Data Analysis and Results Dissemination

**Description:** The ecological and economic importance of bats cannot be understated. Pest control, crop pollination, seed dispersal, and facilitation of plant response to climate change are just a few of the important roles that bats play. The objective of this internship is to convert raw data from decades of bat research in Costa Rica into results usable for publication; informing conservation priorities; educating diverse local, national, and international audiences; and laying the groundwork for further research and conservation. Under the guidance of two bat researchers, you will learn how to prepare and analyze scientific data, interpret results, and prepare the information for distribution to a wider audience (possibly including publication). Microsoft Excel proficiency and prior knowledge of statistics are preferable but not strictly required.

**Intern responsibilities:** Exact responsibilities will be defined with the supervisor and will depend on the specific research project, and could include literature review, data entry, data analysis and presentation (e.g. creation of graphs), writing, etc.

**Final products:** Final products could include visual presentation, manuscript for publication, blog content, reports for funding agencies, etc.

**Duration:** 10-12 weeks

**Requirements:** computer, basic knowledge of MS Excel

**Supervisor:** Richard LaVal, PhD, Monteverde Bat Jungle founder, and Vim de Backer, biologist





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## Environment and Conservation

### Interpreting Echolocation Calls of Leaf-nosed Bats

**Description:** Until recently ultrasonic recording equipment was not capable of recording the calls of phyllostomid bats, often called whispering bats because of the low intensity of their calls. Since these are the bats responsible for much of the fruit dispersal from tropical plants, and for the pollination of many species, we need to understand how these bats use echolocation to locate their food. With state-of-the-art equipment, we have begun to record these calls, which is easily done with captive bats in the 18-meter-long enclosure at the Bat Jungle. We are also beginning to do it with wild, hand-released bats in the cloud forest. We use Kaleidoscope Pro software to view the calls, but our files are difficult to interpret compared to those of high-intensity emitting insectivorous bats.

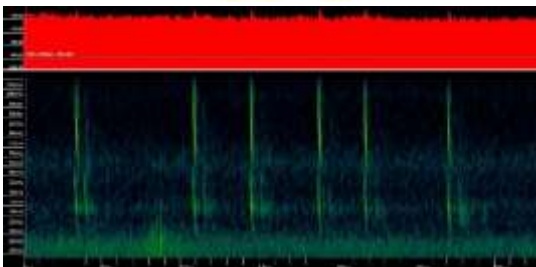
**Intern responsibilities:** The intern should be experienced in use of Kaleidoscope or similar software and would sort, analyze, and compare calls of as many species as possible, with the goal of putting the information into a published scientific paper, with illustrations. They are expected to do extensive literature searches and consult by email with active researchers in this field. The intern could of course be one of the authors of any published paper.

**Final products:** Supply useful data, information, and analyses to the principal investigators (Richard LaVal and Vin de Backer)

**Duration:** 6-12 weeks

**Requirements:** Computer and software skills (Kaleidoscope or similar), background in biological sciences, search engine pro skills.

**Supervisor:** Richard LaVal, PhD, bat researcher and Monteverde Bat Jungle founder





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## Environment and Conservation

### Wildlife Caught on Tape: Camera Trap Data Analysis

**Description:** This internship will give an introduction to the use of camera traps to collect relevant data about medium to large sized mammals, review questions that can and cannot be answered with camera trapping, provide an overview of applications in the field with selected case studies, and teach the basics of camera trapping (placement, uses, limitations, etc.). The intern will gain appreciation for the limits and biases inherent in analyzing and reporting camera capture rates; and understanding of considerations for cost-effective monitoring of population trends.

**Intern responsibilities:** Review camera trap footage for mammal identification; data entry, analysis, and interpretation; produce a written report.

**Final products:** Analysis and interpretation of the data results in a written report.

**Duration:** 2-4 weeks

**Requirements:** Strong interest and basic knowledge of ecology, conservation, and research; basic knowledge of mammal identification; previous experience with data entry and a detail-oriented person. Additionally, for on-site option: physical fitness and willingness to get dirty.

**Supervisor:** Ernest Minnema, naturalist guide and biologist; Sofía Arce, biologist and educator





## Environment and Conservation

### Watershed Management Plans for Drinking Water Springs

**Description:** The main aqueduct for the Monteverde Municipal District is supplied by a series of freshwater springs, each with its own unique set of circumstances and protection requirements. A number of risks and mitigation actions have been proposed, however, not evaluated or documented for a systematic plan to be agreed upon. This project will contribute to the articulation, in concise terms, of the unique challenges presented and actions to be pursued for each spring. This project will require the intern to first conduct a literature review to identify the common elements of a watershed protection plan, then through dialogue with the environmental manager determine a concise/brief format for the plans to be utilized (and populated) for each respective spring within the system.

**Intern responsibilities:** Collect guidance documents and actual copies of management plans to identify common elements. Create a bibliography and work with Environmental Manager to create a format to be used in Monteverde.

**Final products:** Bibliography, plan framework/format, initial drafts of plans

**Duration:** 3-6 weeks

**Requirements:** Basic Spanish, strong independent research skills.

**Supervisor:** Monte Verde District ASADA (Aqueduct Administration Association) staff







## Geographic Information Systems

### Supporting Connections: GIS Viewer Design and Implementation

**Description:** Map viewer development is a widely applicable and fast-evolving area of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), as evidenced by the number of applications for the general public to display and visualize different types of data. The Bellbird Biological Corridor extends from the cloud forests of Monteverde down the Pacific slope to the Nicoya Gulf mangroves, creating biological connectivity and supporting community wellbeing. The objective of this internship is to support informed public and private decision-making processes through the generation of accessible, useful, current, and reliable georeferenced geographic information for the Bellbird Biological Corridor. The Monteverde region is home or host to an important scientific and student community that requires information and geodata. This project aims to make geographic information for the Bellbird Biological Corridor easily accessible to the general public through a GIS viewer.

**Intern responsibilities:** Verify information and data veracity, check metadata and attribute tables (.shp information: owner, creator, publication year, description, etc.), and check for topology errors (e.g. separated riverlines, overlaid polygons).

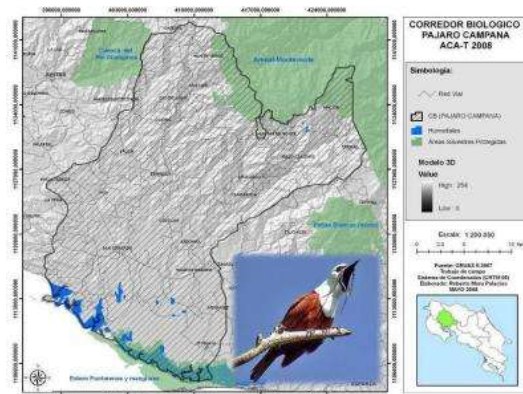
**Final products:** A GIS viewer of the Bellbird Biological Corridor with geographic information in .shp format. Data to be initially included in the viewer: 1990-2001-2020 land use, river network, road network, communities, contour lines, life zones, and sub-corridors.

**Duration:** 6 weeks (+/-)

**Requirements:** advanced GIS knowledge (ArcGIS, QGIS), open-source GIS web application development knowledge (ESRI, Carto, Mapbox, Google Maps).

**Supervisor:** Randy Chinchilla, MVI GIS coordinator

*This is a **service internship** – write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) for more information.*





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## Geographic Information Systems

### Connecting Local Consumers and Producers: Interactive Map Design

**Description:** Where is the food you consume produced? This is an important question anywhere, and the final product of this internship will help people in Monteverde answer it. The Monteverde Institute works to connect local producers and consumers in the Monteverde zone, in a larger effort to promote food security and a resilient local economy that respects the natural environment. This interactive map gives consumers access to information about local producers of vegetables, fruits, meats, dairy, and value-added products. The objective of this internship is to develop an interactive map of local, regional, and national producers for the Monteverde zone. Requirements: Advanced GIS knowledge (ArcGIS, QGIS), open-source GIS web application development knowledge (ESRI, Carto, Mapbox, Google Maps), basic reading comprehension of Spanish preferable.

**Intern responsibilities:** Verify information and data veracity, and collect product information through producer interviews. Additionally, for on-site option: conduct field work.

**Final products:** A map displaying the location of producers, which contains information about the producer or company and the products they sell. The map should also show the path of the product to the final consumer.

**Duration:** 4 weeks (+/-)

**Requirements:** Advanced GIS knowledge (ArcGIS, QGIS), open-source GIS web application development knowledge (ESRI, Carto, Mapbox, Google Maps), basic reading comprehension of Spanish preferable

**Supervisor:** Randy Chinchilla, geographer and MVI GIS coordinator

*This is a **service internship** – write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) for more information.*





## Geographic Information Systems

### Sustainability Virtual Tour: Interactive Map Design

**Description:** Interactive maps are a simple, informative way to represent a territory. These maps can include a wealth of geographic, physical, political, and social data, as well as supported content with photos, videos, and audio. The objective of this internship is to develop a navigable interactive map for the MVI website, with information about the organization, the Rachel & Dwight Crandell Memorial Reserve, and campus sustainability initiatives. The desired final product is the publicly accessible interactive map. If you are interested in generating content for the interactive map and virtual tour, see the Community Organization Communications internship description below.

**Intern responsibilities:** Verify information and data veracity, check metadata and attribute tables (.shp information: owner, creator, publication year, description, etc.), and review/update information on each of the sustainability projects (including photos, videos, graphics, and data).

**Final products:** Interactive map of the MVI campus, which communicates information about our sustainability initiatives and programs, and introduces the staff and their roles and responsibilities within the organization.

**Duration:** 6 weeks (+/-)

**Requirements:** Graphic and web design knowledge, geolocation application knowledge (Carto, Mapbox, etc.), open-source GIS web application development knowledge (ESRI, Carto, Mapbox, Google Maps).

**Supervisor:** Randy Chinchilla, geographer and MVI GIS coordinator

*This is a **service internship** – write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) for more information.*





## Community Health

### Food Security Program Evaluation

**Description – social science research assistant internship:** Through this internship, participants will learn how to conduct a program evaluation. Interns will assist in evaluating regional initiatives and programs that have developed to ensure food security and wellbeing in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Programs to be evaluated could include (but are not limited to), Huertas Monteverde (Monteverde Home Gardens), Disfrutable (sharing fruit plants), and the Banca de Alimentos (Food Bank). Program evaluation involves applying research methodologies, so interns will learn how to collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data, as well as use Dedoose analysis software. Interns will also learn how to present findings to various stakeholders, such as program developers, program participants, funders, and the general community.

**Intern responsibilities:** Coordinate with internship supervisors during first days of internship to identify priority tasks/locations and to schedule weekly update meetings; literature review; data collection (participant survey, participant focus group, stakeholder interviews, and stakeholder survey, existing secondary data sources); data entry, analysis, and interpretation; prepare final report; and prepare and deliver a presentation.

**Final products:** Stakeholder presentation, stakeholder report (with policy recommendations), community presentation, community report (with policy recommendations), and visual representation of findings.

**Duration:** 4-6 weeks

**Requirements:** Basic Spanish

**Supervisor:** Dr. Allison Cantor, medical anthropologist and MVI research affiliate

\*\*\*The above description is geared toward students in anthropology and/or public health, as this internship satisfies public health core competencies. The programs to be evaluated cover a wide range of disciplines, and will benefit from the work of interns in diverse fields of study.





## Community Health

### Climate Change, COVID-19, and Food Insecurity in the Bellbird Biological Corridor

**Description** – *social science research assistant internship*: This research explores the relationship between climate change, COVID-19, and food insecurity in the Bellbird Biological Corridor (BBC) in Costa Rica. Small-scale food producers were already struggling with the effects of climate change in the region, and now the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted them further. The main research question is: how have small-scale food producers adapted to these changes and how do these adaptations impact food insecurity in the BBC? Interns will participate in various components of research, which may include conducting interviews and using other methods (e.g., focus groups, photovoice, free listing, etc.) to gather data on food insecurity, Covid-19, and climate change. Interns will also gain skills in data management, data collection, data analysis, and community-based participatory research.

**Intern responsibilities:** Coordinate with internship supervisors during first days of internship to identify priority tasks/locations and to schedule weekly update meetings; conduct literature review; data collection, entry, analysis, and interpretation; prepare final report; and prepare and deliver a presentation.

**Final products:** Community presentation, final report, infographic on small-scale food producers and food insecurity, and infographic showing analysis of regional climate change data.

**Duration:** 4-6 weeks

**Requirements:** Basic Spanish

**Supervisor:** Dr. Allison Cantor, medical anthropologist and MVI research affiliate

\*\*\*The above description is geared toward students in anthropology and/or public health, as this internship satisfies public health core competencies. This project is interdisciplinary and will benefit from the work of interns in diverse fields of study, so if the overall project is of interest to you, please apply or request more information!







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## Community Health

### Enfermedades Infecciosas: El Conocimiento Es Poder

*(This internship is offered in Spanish.)*

**Descripción:** Justificación: Las enfermedades infecciosas constituyen una de las primeras causas de morbi-mortalidad en Costa Rica, razón por la cual es esencial conocerlas adecuadamente. Por medio de clases virtuales con la doctora supervisora de esta pasantía, el/la pasante conocerá la etiología de las enfermedades infecciosas que representan problemas de salud en Costa Rica, podrá explicar los mecanismos patogénicos de los microorganismos que explican la producción de enfermedades infecciosas, conocerá las principales características epidemiológicas de cada enfermedad, podrá describir la respuesta inmunológica del hospedero cuando hay enfermedades infecciosas, y conocerá las medidas de prevención y control de las enfermedades infecciosas. Este conocimiento se aplicará a la elaboración de materiales educativos para diversos públicos.

**Responsabilidades del/la pasante:** Recopilar información sobre enfermedades infecciosas relevantes en Costa Rica, sintetizar recursos existentes y resumir recomendaciones oficiales, elaborar materiales educativos en formatos fáciles de entender y que llamen la atención de diferentes sectores de la población costarricense.

**Productos finales:** Materiales informativos sobre diferentes enfermedades infecciosas (por ejemplo: infográficos, panfletos, afiches).

**Duración:** 10-12 semanas

**Requisitos:** Nivel avanzado de español, conocimientos básicos de biología, manejo de Microsoft Office, conocimientos básicos de diseño gráfico.

**Supervisora:** Dra. Kristinne Bellorín, médico independiente



Dra. Kristinne Bellorín  
Medicina Integral



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## Sustainability and Resilience

### Social Permaculture: Designing for Community

**Description:** Think globally, act locally. This work will support the design of resilient and regenerative communities and community-driven organizations. Permaculture is a holistic design methodology that draws upon the wisdom and experience of traditional indigenous knowledge and modern science applied via 12 design principles that can be applied to create conscious and regenerative systems. The goal of permaculture practitioners is to design systems that maximize the welfare of humanity and the living world in a sustainable way. The internship is very flexible in terms of the focus the intern is interested in pursuing. The internship can focus on either traditional permaculture site design (home-scale, community garden, or farm-scale) or social permaculture (holistic systems design for communities, organizations, or programs). The mentor will guide the intern through the basics of permaculture design (ethics, principles, site analysis, design process, etc.) and how to apply it to a project that fits the above criteria.

**Intern responsibilities:** Generate a permaculture design addressing community needs, including GIS data entry, basic mind mapping, conduct and compile stakeholder interviews, and prepare a written report.

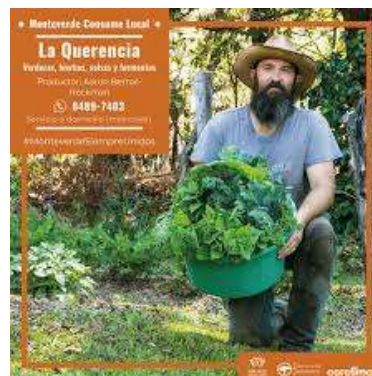
**Final products:** Two to three-week internships will produce a short permaculture-based assessment with recommendations for the selected client. Longer-term interns will produce a more comprehensive assessment and permaculture design for the selected client.

**Duration:** 2-6 weeks

**Requirements:** Access and ability to use Google Drive, knowledge in design, basic mind mapping, and basic GIS. The intern must follow the three ethics of permaculture: 1) Care for Earth 2) Care for people 3) Fair share

**Supervisor:** Aaron Bernal-Hockman, anthropologist and regenerative systems designer

*This can be either an academic or **service internship** – write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) for more information.*







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## Sustainability and Resilience

### Establishment, Management, and Impacts of Home Gardens Pre- and Post-COVID-19

**Description:** This internship will help assess and document strategies and impacts of local home gardens pre- and post-COVID-19 in the Monteverde zone economy and food security. Other activities can include elaboration of educational materials.

**Intern responsibilities:** Periodic meetings with the supervisor, literature review, interview local people/organizations, and data processing.

**Final products:** A socio-economic assessment of home-gardens (report and presentation) and didactic materials for the Monteverde community.

**Duration:** 3-4 weeks

**Requirements:** Intermediate Spanish

**Supervisor:** Elena Florian, MVI collaborator





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## Sustainability and Resilience

### **The Future of Tourism Post-COVID-19: Opportunities for Innovation and Survival from Economic Adversity**

**Description:** As a global economic recession takes place in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's not surprising that the tourism industry is bracing itself for a decline in bookings and increase in cancellations, which is negatively impacting Monteverde's local economy. This project focuses on documenting the impact post-COVID-19 in the local tourism industry and identifying local/national/international strategies that countries like CR are implementing to make local tourist enterprises more resilient.

**Intern responsibilities:** Possibly conduct interviews, process data, and write a final report.

**Final products:** Final report and presentation (e.g. PowerPoint).

**Duration:** 3-4 weeks

**Requirements:** Intermediate Spanish, data processing ability, and report writing.

**Supervisor:** Elena Florian, climate change mitigation specialist and MVI collaborator





## Communications

### From Monteverde to the World: Community Organization Communications

**Description:** The Monteverde Institute interacts with diverse partners: communities in the Monteverde zone; stakeholders in the Bellbird Biological Corridor; academic, research, and service partners throughout Costa Rica; international students, faculty, and researchers; and potentially anyone in the world with an interest in sustainability and access to social media. Internal communication at such a dynamic organization is also interesting and important. This internship supports the work of the MVI communications department in a wide variety of tasks, such as website maintenance, social media, graphic design, community surveys, script preparation, video and photo editing, weekly local announcements, supporting on-site and virtual academic programs, creating blog and newsletter content, and creating infographics and other educational materials. The final products of this internship will depend on the organization's current needs, and the intern's strengths and interests. For example, content for the MVI campus interactive map and sustainability virtual tour could be a final product of this internship.

**Intern responsibilities:** Collect information from diverse sources (books, interviews, etc.), compose summaries of key information, create multi-media scripts, review and refine communication materials, etc.

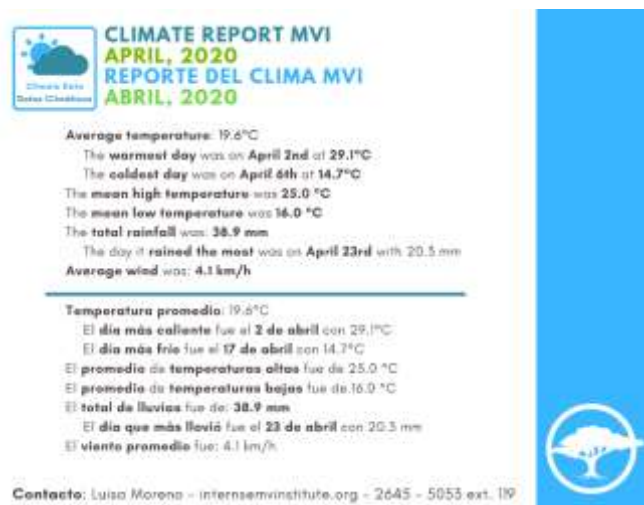
**Final products:** Blog articles on a diversity of topics of interest for MVI, e-learning scripts, and essays or other documents suitable for internet publication for local and international audiences.

**Duration:** 2-12 weeks

**Requirements:** Strong skills in internet research, writing, and summarizing information.

**Supervisor:** Marco Crawford, MVI communications coordinator

*This is a **service internship** – write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) for more information.*







## Communications

### Communications for Productive Water Treatment Plant

**Description:** Our community water system has become a lead model for other neighboring communities. One of our provisional work site in Cañitas serves not only as a testing ground for productive treatment technologies that will serve as the cornerstone of a "circular economy", but also as an educational opportunity to show first-hand decision-makers, investors and other stakeholders the value and process of scaling-up. We currently have a series of posters in English that need to be translated into Spanish before they can be displayed at the newly constructed composting plant. Once translated, the information can also be reformatted to be included in an updated version of an informational dossier that serves to communicate the larger vision and up-to-date progress of the Environmental Technology Park initiative.

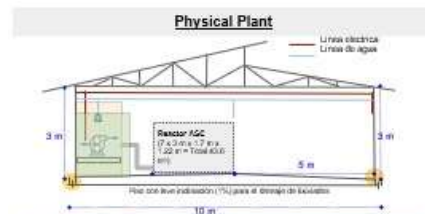
**Intern responsibilities:** Translating texts, editing basic graphics layout.

**Final products:** Series of translated posters and digital booklet.

**Duration:** 2-3 weeks

**Requirements:** Intermediate Spanish, and some proficiency with Microsoft Office or Google equivalents.

**Supervisor:** Monte Verde District ASADA (Aqueduct Administration Association) staff



#### Illustrations of ASC Reactors (Bin and Pile)



#### Materials Safety and Handling Equipment



#### Passive Heat Exchanger



#### Biomethane Potential Meter





## Communications

### Ecology and Natural History Media: Educational Video Production

**Description:** Having so much information to offer in Ecology and Natural History just within the Monteverde area, we would like to design bilingual, educational content in various media. As an intern, you could work on video editing, participation in elaboration of original videos, social media marketing, and outreach to support the growth of a channel based on teaching science, ecology, natural history; and raising awareness about the importance of conservation, by connecting people to nature in a way that is unique and engaging.

Sample video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv3BLnJk-t4>.

**Intern responsibilities:** Edit videos, participate in content design, and publish educational and marketing materials.

**Final products:** At least one educational video about an ecological or natural history theme of the intern's preference, increased viewing of videos and publications.

**Format:** Virtual

**Duration:** 2-6 weeks

**Requirements:** Experience with video editing and social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

**Supervisor:** Alexa Stickel, naturalist guide and educator







## Arts

### Art, Education, and Communications

**Description:** This interdisciplinary, creative project seeks to motivate and attract interns with artistic skills who would like to develop and use their skills to create a final product that serves a greater educational and/or communications purpose in the areas of ecology, conservation, health, medicinal plants, or sustainability. The intern will work closely with the supervisor to decide on a final product based on their artistic strengths or desired areas of improvement. The intern will be introduced to a variety of conservation and sustainability projects occurring locally in Monteverde, Costa Rica, as well as ecological highlights of the area. Together, the intern and supervisor will map out a series of experiences and research avenues that will allow the intern to gain a more in-depth understanding of the topic of choice, and to inform the art-making process, the final product, and the target audience. Typically, students who engage in this internship come from a visual arts background, however other art mediums are welcomed. The final art product will support local institutions in their educational and communications objectives.

**Intern responsibilities:** Internet research, identify target audience and final product in conjunction with the supervisor, complete all artistic projects, create a final presentation video showcasing artistic process and final art product, and submit the final product to the benefitting target audience or organization.

**Final products:** Final products will depend on the intern's interest and artistic medium, and virtual vs. on-site internship format. Past examples of products include: a published Zine about bioluminescence, an art activity for local students about insect illustration and mandalas, watercolor "Forest Bathing" digital cards for a local reserve; nature prints of local, medicinal plants; environmental education lesson plans with an art component; ink drawings to identify saplings of reforestation species; creative blog writing about experiences with medicinal plants; and interactive games/exhibits for a children's nature interpretive center.

**Duration:** 4-8 weeks

**Requirements:** For virtual internships, art materials and any related software will need to be supplied by the intern. For on-site internships, some art materials are accessible locally, but not all. Spanish is helpful, but not required. An interest in exploring nature and sustainability themes through art. A desire to be guided and held accountable for one's own artistic development through a project-based initiative. Self-discipline and creativity, especially for the virtual environment.

**Supervisor:** Carla Willoughby, artist and educator



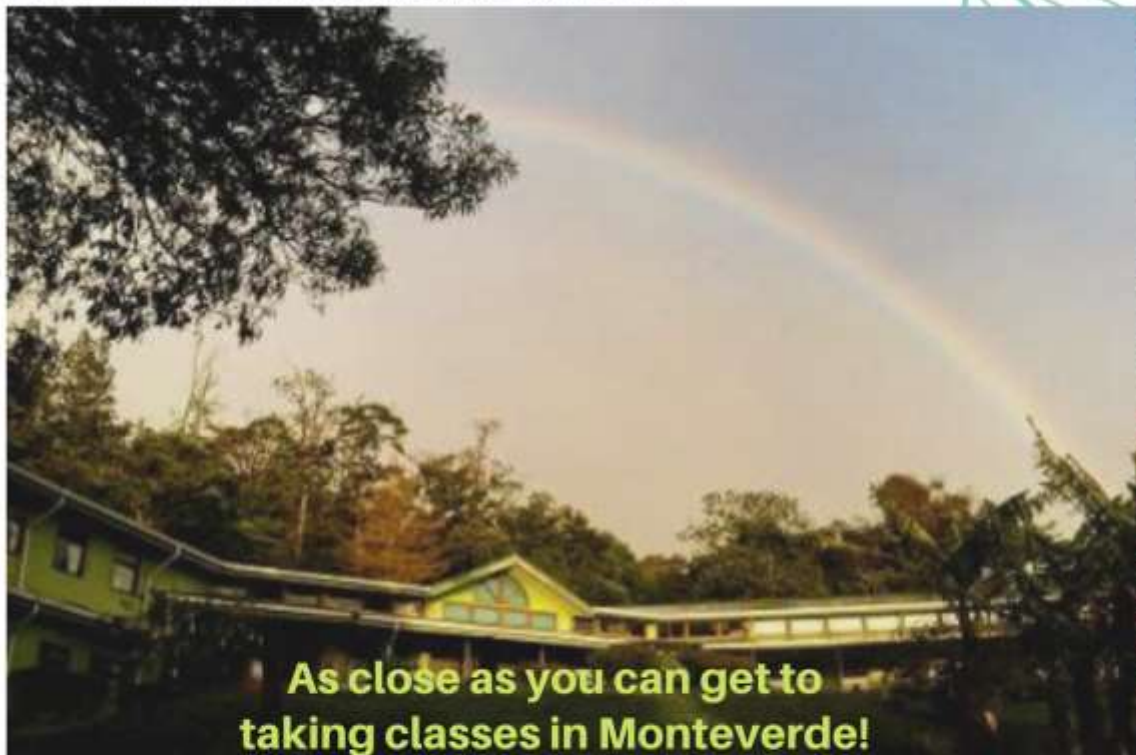


MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE  
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Do you want to learn Spanish with a teacher who can give insight into the language and Costa Rican culture?

Our participatory classes will virtually bring Costa Rica to you, and have you interacting with your Spanish teacher and local families!

## Virtual Spanish Classes with the Monteverde Institute



### *MVI virtual Spanish classes are unique...*

**Personalized classes** by age, level, learning style, schedule, interests, and application

**Flexible times:** meet with your teacher from anywhere in the world with an internet connection

**Interactive participation:** practice your Spanish with a local peer (and support their English practice) through MVI

**Cultural Exposure:** participate in Costa Rican cultural activities (optional)



#### *Education for a Sustainable Future*

Apartado 69-5655, Monteverde de Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Telephone: (506) 2645-5053, 2645-5365, 2645-5219

Email: [info@mviinstitute.org](mailto:info@mviinstitute.org) Website: <http://www.monteverde-institute.org/>



MONTEVERDE  
INSTITUTE





By choosing the Monteverde Institute for your Spanish classes, you will become part of an organization promoting sustainability in Monteverde for over 30 years. We will show you what we do in the community in your classes.



### Optional cultural activities

- Traditional Costa Rican cooking class
- Dinner and discussion/games with a Monteverde family
- Folkloric dance class
- Virtual coffee tour
- Virtual cloud forest natural history tour
- Artistic expressions of Costa Rican identity
- Meeting with a local community leader in your area of interest (conservation, climate change, woman's cooperatives, community development, etc.)

**When choosing a package, you'll start by getting to know Monteverde and the Monteverde Institute in an introductory module - natural history, human communities, conservation initiatives, economy, sustainability challenges, and efforts toward resilience.**

### Interested?

Evelyn at [spanish@mvinstitute.org](mailto:spanish@mvinstitute.org) would love to hear from you and get you started.

### Need academic credit?

Our classes are recognized by several US universities. Write to Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org)

### Ask about discounts

Packages, group classes, packages, sign up with a friend, in-person classes after your virtual classes...

### Come visit!

We will do everything possible to bring Monteverde to you during your program. However, we realize that visiting is the best experience. We have a supplemental Spanish trip package that is discounted for our virtual Spanish language students. Once it is safe to travel, we will welcome you to Monteverde to experience the sights, the sounds, and the language in person.

### Pricing

Individual class (50 min. to one hour)	\$20 USD
Complete course: 20 hours of individual classes	\$390 USD
Introduction to Costa Rica, Monteverde, and sustainability	Complementary
Matching for intercultural language practice	Complementary
Optional cultural activities (each)	\$50 USD
Registration fee	\$7 USD
Group or family classes	Ask for pricing

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**Thanks for your interest in the Monteverde Institute, our community, and the internship program!**

**If you have any questions, please contact Fern at [mvi@mvinstitute.org](mailto:mvi@mvinstitute.org) or +506-2645-5053 ext.124**

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