



ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS WITH THE MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE (MVI)

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. In addition to individual internships, we provide team opportunities where professional skills regarding organization, communication, collaboration, and decision-making are enhanced.

Interns with the Monteverde Institute work with local experts involved in a variety of community and environmentally based initiatives that investigate or contribute to local issues. Students receive background information and the skill sets necessary to accomplish their tasks. While participating in this program, students also have the opportunity to gain skills in team-building, conflict resolution, project management and cultural awareness. Additionally, throughout the internship we provide multiple levels of supervision and expertise to ensure that the student has the most authentic and beneficial experience possible. Furthermore, we insist that all projects are presented publicly, so all internships end with community accountability and feedback. 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.*

About the Monteverde Institute: The Monteverde Institute (MVI) is a member-governed Costa Rican non-profit association dedicated to education, applied research, and community engagement. Founded in 1986, the MVI from its inception has facilitated place-based, experiential learning in education abroad, grounded in the environmental, social, economic and cultural realities of the Monteverde Zone communities. The MVI teaches and hosts courses from over 25 universities in the fields of Tropical Ecology, Conservation Biology, Sustainability, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Education, Culture, and Community Health, and spearheads various community projects such as Traveler's Philanthropy, sidewalk development, recycling, and the Bellbird Biological Corridor. Student field work and service learning make valuable contributions to our local communities and families.

Types of Internships: This program offers three different types of internships: project-based without academic modules, project-based with academic modules (includes five modules and/or Spanish), and team internships. Please see Modules and Prices sheet for a complete list of the academic modules we offer.

Team Internships: Today's employers are looking for college graduates who have both technical skills and the ability to collaborate and function as a team. Team Internships are part of the Monteverde Institute's effort to enhance our students' education through real-world experiences in a team setting. Students work on-site with community partners as a multi-disciplinary team focused on a clearly defined and significant project. These internships are located in Section A of this packet.

Duration: The MVI offers internships starting from 4-10 weeks (longer options can be arranged). Internships are available from the end of March – beginning of August (project dependent).

Recommended credits: Recommended Credits are based on contact hours: 15 lectures hours = 1 credit; 30 lab/ field hours = 1 credit; 15 discussion class hours = 1 credit. Please see Modules and Prices sheet for specific course credit recommendations.

Homestays: During their internship, students will have the opportunity to live with Costa Rican families, which will enhance their Spanish and cultural knowledge. Homestays include a single room, three meals, and laundry service. Arrangements may be made for students who prefer to live independently.

How to apply: Internships are based on trimesters, with some flexibility in dates. There are three application deadlines that prospective inters should keep in mind:

1. Spring Trimester (January-April): **November**
2. Summer Trimester (May-August): **March**
3. Fall Trimester (September – December): **July**

Apply by completing the following and sending to interns@mvinstitute.org:

1. Cover letter of interest
2. Curriculum vitae / resume
3. Application form
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. Application fee: \$50. Please make checks out to “Asociación Instituto Monteverde” and send to:

Instituto Monteverde Internship Program
Apartado 69-5655, Monteverde
Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Note: Applications will not be considered until the application fee is received. Please allow two weeks for checks to arrive. Must be 18 or older to apply. Accepted applicants will be required to provide proof of travelers’ insurance, and proof of valid passport.

For more information about applying, please contact:

interns@mvinstitute.org, Tel. (506) 2645-5053 ext. 115