



## Asturias Summer Internship Program Description

### Program Overview

The Miguel Angel Asturias Academy's 2011 Summer Internship Program is a two-week program for college-aged (and beyond) students who are interested in an intern abroad experience that will help prepare for a future career in the fields of education and/or non-profit management. The dates of this program are August 5<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>st</sup>.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn or deepen their knowledge of Spanish, get a hands-on internship in an internationally recognized school, experience Guatemalan culture through a homestay and other cultural events/visits, and help our 300+ low-income students achieve a world-class education.

### Most Important Details

Dates: Arrive by August 5th, 2011. Program ends on 8/20/2011

Location: The Miguel Angel Asturias Academy, located in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Program Cost: \$850 if registered by March 31st, 2011. \$900 thereafter. (Cost includes all meals, housing, intensive Spanish lessons and transportation within Guatemala)

### Itinerary

Program participants will arrive at the Guatemala City airport on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Asturias staff will meet participants at the airport and immediately leave for the night in Antigua, Guatemala, the colonial capital. Saturday we will depart for Quetzaltenango, to meet host families and move in.

Monday morning, we will begin language classes at **Centro Maya Xela** and the non-profit or education internship at the **Miguel Angel Asturias Academy**. The first week of the internship (Aug 8-12), interns will assist in one of two projects. The project for the education track will involve assisting in our English-teaching program as well as helping us develop and expand our letter-writing exchanges with schools in the United States.

The non-profit management track will focus on sustainable non-profit practices, grants and proposals, and helping the Asturias Academy better communicate to its supporters as it moves forward towards opening a second campus in rural Guatemala.

The internship will be complemented by intensive Spanish lessons which will help speakers at any level improve their language skills. Participants already fluent in Spanish will learn K'iche, a Mayan language. During our time in Quetzaltenango we will also visit museums, small towns, cultural sites and the historic downtown.

Our second weekend excursion (Aug 13-14) will be to **Lake Atitlan** where we will relax in the beautiful town of Santiago Atitlan. Possible activities include kayaking, mountain climbing, and other cultural activities.



Sunday evening, we will return for week two of the program to continue language classes and the internship. We will conclude with a large community dinner that Friday and arrange transportation to the airport for participants, for departure on Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Who should apply?**

Passionate students interested in helping the Asturias Academy create a Guatemala where all children can go to a quality school.

This internship will provide the opportunity to improve their skills within the fields of international education or non-profit management. No prior study or experience is required to participate. There is no language requirement either; interns will spend 50 hours over two weeks studying intensive Spanish or K'iche, a local Mayan language spoken by over 1,000,000 Guatemalans in the region. Interns must be 18 years of age or older and should be open to new experiences and ideas.

### **FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)**

#### **Q: Is there a minimum age requirement for participants?**

*A: Participants must be at least 18 years old by the start of the program.*

#### **Q: Is Quetzaltenango, Guatemala safe?**

*A: Quetzaltenango is a beautiful city that like cities everywhere has its positive and negative aspects. Program participants who abide by our code of conduct are highly unlikely to experience any issues with their physical safety. The Asturias Academy has yet to have an issue with visitors being affected by criminal activity. Our policies of using secure transportation, housing and food providers contribute to our positive safety record.*

#### **Q: What if I get sick?**

*A: We have a small clinic within the school and are a five minute drive away from a private hospital.*

#### **Q: What kind of medications/shots do I need?**

*A: Your doctor can answer this question best. Quetzaltenango is a non-malaria zone.*

#### **Q: Can you accommodate my food allergy/restriction?**

*A: Yes. Vegans should contact us directly, however, so we can make a plan to meet your dietary needs. Other food issues are easily dealt with.*

#### **Q: What is your drug/tobacco/alcohol policy?**

*A: Any participant using or possessing illegal drugs in Guatemala will immediately be dismissed from the program and sent home at his/her own expense. The Asturias Academy is a substance-free zone and participants who choose to smoke should not do so where students can see them (within 5 blocks of the school). Participants who choose to consume alcohol will not do so while at any programmed activities or in such a way that has negative repercussions in the community.*

*The consumption of the aforementioned substances (in addition to being bad for your health) is not the purpose of this program. Individuals who take exception to this policy should look elsewhere for an intern abroad experience.*



**Q: What costs are included in my program fee?**

*A: In-country transportation, all meals, lodging (homestay and hotels), program fees, admissions fees, Spanish/K'iche lessons & drinking water at the school.*

**Q: What costs are not included in my program fee?**

*A: Your plane ticket, souvenirs & costs associated with going out on your own.*

**Q: How much pocket money should I plan on bringing and how will I convert it to Quetzales (Guatemalan currency)?**

*A: Because all of your basic costs are covered, participants should bring money for souvenirs (if they choose to buy them) & "on your own expenses" (buying a cup of coffee at a cafe, for instance). While each participant is unique, we would recommend between \$25 and \$100 USD.*

*Participants should bring their personal money in cash. Asturias staff will convert it to Quetzales at a bank. Participants **should not** bring travelers checks. ATM access is available, but discouraged. If participants wish to use ATMs, it is highly recommended that they contact their bank (to explain that the card will be used abroad, and to check international withdraw fees) before leaving home.*

**Q: What if I don't like my host family (or vice versa)?**

*A: Time spent with your host family will hopefully be special for both you and the family. We will give you tips on how to communicate with your family and what to expect. If the situation proves impossible, we can move you; however, that will be a last resort and not a first option.*

**Q: Will I be able to write to my host family before or after my stay?**

*A: You will not be able to write to your host family before your stay, but are certainly welcome to stay in touch upon completion of the program.*

**Q: Should I bring a gift for my host family? What kind of gift?**

*A: An inexpensive gift is always a nice gesture. Because you will not know how many members your family has beforehand, we would recommend a gift for the adults and a gift for the children. Anything local to your home community or saying the name of your state would be a good gift for adults. A fun all-ages toy or ball would be a good gift for kids. T-shirts should be avoided as gifts, however.*

**Q: Can I arrive earlier than the arrival date or stay later than the departure date?**

*A: Generally, yes. We can arrange this on a case-by-case basis.*

**Q: Should I leave irreplaceable items at home?**

*A: Yes. We would hate it if you lost your grandmother's earrings or your laptop.*

**Q: Do I need insurance?**

*A: You will need to have health insurance. Check with your provider to see what options exist for travelers. A copy of this insurance policy will need to be received before the start of the program.*

**Q: Can I opt out of language classes?**

*A: Language classes are a core piece of the internship experience. We encourage participants to be open to learning Spanish or K'iche, but would also be open to consider alternatives.*



## Asturias Internship Program—2010 Application

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY CLASS YEAR:</b>
<b>PRESENT ADDRESS:</b>	<b>PERMANENT ADDRESS:</b>
<b>PRIMARY PHONE:</b>	<b>SECONDARY PHONE:</b>
<b>EMAIL:</b>	<b>SKYPE NAME:</b>

<b>MAJOR(S):</b>	
<b>MINOR:</b>	
<b>RELEVANT EXPERIENCES:</b>	

Please select your preferred focus for the internship program

*International Education*

*Non-profit Management*

In addition to the above application, please share with us your resume, 2-4 references, why you are interested in taking part of the 2011 Asturias Academy Internship Program and what you hope to learn.

**Thank you for your interest! Please submit any questions and your application to [maleahetrick@gmail.com](mailto:maleahetrick@gmail.com) by March 31<sup>st</sup> to receive the early bird discount.**