



THE ANDEAN ALLIANCE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Summer 2018 Research Practicum in the Sacred Valley of Peru



For the summer of 2018, the Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development (AASD) will be hosting students to participate in an **intensive summer research practicum**. The AASD has carried out research for the past four years independently and in conjunction with major US and Peruvian institutions. As members of a research team, students will participate in a complete iteration of a research project, from initial client engagement through deliverable creation and delivery. Not only are our research methods appropriate for these communities, but always attempt to address and positively impact local challenges. The AASD has researched themes ranging from bringing organic produce to market, effects of climate change on small-scale farmers and how access and connectivity affect poverty.

The theme of this year's research will be an exploration of market access for organic producers. Students will be split into teams to tackle this challenge from multiple angles. Primary data collection methodologies will be qualitatively focused (interviews, focus groups, participant observation), with the potential for a quantitative (surveys) aspect as well. We are seeking 10-12 students with a desire to spend time immersed in rural communities and a passion for engaging with local stakeholders.

www.alianzaandina.org

Summer Research Practicum Student Experience

The context of the Sacred Valley provides a rich environment for students to learn about development, while also enjoying the beauty of the Inca Breadbasket. Explore the many ruins and tourist attractions in the valley, while also having a unique experience visiting and learning from local communities that are off the beaten track. Students will advance their Spanish language skills through practical application, and will be immersed in Peruvian culture throughout their time in the program. The first weeks of the program will focus on building local context, research design, and methods training. Students will gain experience in field research, data interpretation, and partner engagement.

In addition to the skills-based curriculum, the practicum offers a holistic learning experience that incorporates a strong academic component. Students will utilize advanced critical thinking skills and observations from their work in the communities to explore the complexities and challenges of community development. Exposure to diverse realities and development lenses will help students to develop a global perspective, as well as providing a reflection point for personal exploration and learning.

Student Qualifications

The AASD is seeking students with diverse academic backgrounds, including: Geography, Latin American Studies, Food Studies, Environmental Studies, Agriculture, International and Global Studies, Sociology or Anthropology. Students from all departments are encouraged to apply, however preference will be given to students who represent the listed fields. Ideal candidates have a desire to learn about research methods and process, and are conversational in Spanish.

Program Logistics

Program Dates: June 11- August 3

Cost per Student: \$4,400

Please note that while this is not an accredited course, we have had success working with faculty and universities to provide credits to students for this experience. Let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in receiving credit for this practicum so that we can work with you.

Application Process

Interested students should submit a resume (cover letter optional), and a statement of purpose to gaelen@alianzaandina.org.

Guidelines for Statement of Purpose:

- Your one-page statement of purpose should address the following points:
 - What are you hoping to get out of the AASD Summer Research Practicum?
 - How will your participation in the AASD Summer Research Practicum support your professional goals?

Deadlines: Priority deadline: January 31, 2016 | Final deadline: March 31, 2017

