



Universitas 21 Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala

May 27th – July 20th, 2013

(May 27th – June 22nd online; June 23rd – July 20th in Guatemala)

"I just wanted to give you the great news that this past weekend the U21 students participated in our MOST successful village campaign since we started our work almost ten years ago. They supported a number of women entrepreneurs in the Jutiapa region and in one day served over 150 people and helped the women to sell 69 pairs of glasses, 35 eye drops, 30 packets of vegetable seeds, 8 solar lamps/cell phone chargers and one water purification bucket. Truly amazing! That amounts to hundreds of beneficiaries served in one day when you take into account the impact that these solutions have on families. And the women entrepreneurs earned nearly \$240 in net profits. That is equal to over two months' wages for the average rural Guatemalan."

Greg van Kirk¹, co-founder of the Social Entrepreneur Corps

"...what made the trip truly memorable was the people who I worked with, lived with, and interacted with; the experience of living with Guatemalan families further enriched our understanding of the culture and the Guatemalan people."

2012 U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala student participant

"... because of the SEC I was able to experience a lot of personal growth, enhance my perspectives of life, and gain a better understanding of how to make a difference in the world."

2012 U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala student participant

"... participating in these projects has provided me with an opportunity to learn first-hand about working in a globalised world. Gaining an appreciation of the complex factors underlying different cultural perspectives has illustrated to me how important it is that economic analysis is highly contextualised, and has given me insight as to how this might be achieved."

2012 U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala student participant

➤ **The Program**

The U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps in Guatemala program builds on our U21 institutions' expertise in social entrepreneurship, online and blended learning, international collaboration and service learning, as well as on our common commitment to global citizenship.

Social entrepreneurship as a topic and Guatemala as a location are already part of individual U21 members' study abroad program offerings. The proposed U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps program is a tailored approach to study abroad that combines global collaboration, new technologies and impact-oriented learning activities.

Social entrepreneurship is an approach that the Social Entrepreneur Corps successfully utilizes in Latin America. For the proposed U21 program, students interested in international development will work

¹ Greg van Kirk is an Ashoka Fellow, founder of the Social Entrepreneur Corps. In April 2012, at the 2012 World Economic Forum on Latin America, he received the Latin America Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

directly with Social Entrepreneur Corps field professionals and social entrepreneurs in Guatemala to help establish new and grow existing micro-consignment supported businesses.

The benefits include exposure to economic theories of social entrepreneurship and active engagement with case study analyses, Spanish language, and Guatemalan, including Mayan culture. The students will experience living with the local families and working intensively with community service organizations, and local social entrepreneurs. Our students will make a tangible difference in people's lives, while also acquiring the knowledge, skills, and habits necessary to become socially aware, active global citizens. The program is designed as a short-term summer (June/July) opportunity for U21 students. U21 students are encouraged, but not required to take this program for academic credit. This program aims to complement the already existing U21 Summer School and Global Issues Program.

➤ **Program Structure**

This program can be credit bearing, according to each university's policy. UConn will assign six credits to this program.

1. Pre-arrival: May 27 – June 22, 2013

The students will join a U21 Virtual Global Classroom, where they will learn about Social Entrepreneurship and Guatemalan Politics and Culture.

Participation in the pre-arrival phase is compulsory for the continuation of the program.

2. In-country Orientation and Foundation Building: June 23 – June 28, 2013

Upon arrival in the country, all students spend the first segment of their time in Xela (Quetzaltenango), participating in orientation sessions, living with local families, studying Spanish intensively, participating in development discussions, visiting nearby development and relief organizations and participating in project content and technical training.

3. Field Work: June 29 – July 14, 2013

Students travel back to Antigua and visit different satellite work sites, staying with additional local families, in group living settings and/or in hotels. Students will work with Peace Corps Volunteers, local community service organizations, and local businesses.

4. Conclusion, Delivery and Presentation: July 15 – July 20, 2013

All participants return to the Social Entrepreneur Corps headquarters site in Antigua for the final days of the program. At this time the projects are completed and presented, Spanish evaluations are conducted and participants stay with the local families one last time.

5. Assessment

Students will have to submit their final reports by **August 10, 2013**. All throughout the program, students will be invited to contribute to a group blog, sharing and reflecting on their experience. Please read the 2012 program participants' blog here: <http://today.uconn.edu/letters-from-guatemala/>.

➤ Participant profile

Eligibility criteria (administrative evaluation):

- Undergraduate student currently enrolled in a Universitas 21 member institution;
- Class status: 2nd Year, 3rd Year, 4th+ Year;
- Academic area: all;
- Recommended GPA: 3.4 (U.S.) or equivalent;
- Language:
 - o Instruction will be primarily in English
 - o Field work will be primarily in Spanish (intensive instruction on site)
- Proven interest in international development work.

Selection criteria (evaluated through essay and interview):

- Strong motivation for participation;
- Proven ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- Strong interest in helping to empower others;
- Ability to empathize with individuals of diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds;
- Open-mindedness;
- Flexibility;
- Willingness to work hard under challenging developing country conditions;
- Sense of humor.

- **Application procedure** Students are invited to complete an online application through the University of Connecticut's study abroad application system, including a CV and a two-page essay detailing their motivation, experience and expectations in relation with the program.

The application can be accessed at: <https://studyabroad.uconn.edu/?go=U21SECorpsGuatemala>
Skype interviews will be conducted with selected applicants. Acceptance letters will be sent out on March 29, 2013.

Please note that UConn students are also required to submit two academic recommendation letters. The recommendations can be emailed to raluca.nahorniac@uconn.edu, by the application deadline.

- **Working language:** English. Knowledge of Spanish is helpful, but by no means mandatory.

- **Timeline (UConn students):**

- Online application deadline: March 15, 2013
- Application review and Skype interviews: March 16 – March 28, 2013
- Decision date: March 29, 2013
- Commitment deadline: April 10, 2013
- Online classes start: May 27, 2013
- Guatemala arrival: June 23, 2013
- Guatemala departure: July 20, 2013
- Reports due: August 10, 2013

- **Fee:** USD 2,900 / student, not including airfare, visa costs and health insurance.

Three \$1,500 awards are available through the Office of Global Affairs. If you want to be considered for one of these awards, please submit a one page essay below describing what you think makes a global citizen and how you plan on developing yourself as one on your study abroad program. Please note that these awards are based on financial need; accordingly, a completed FAFSA must be on file with Financial Aid. Submitting this scholarship application is optional. Scholarship applications should be send electronically to Raluca.nahorniac@uconn.edu, by the application deadline.

Contact: For more information, please contact Raluca Nahorniac at raluca.nahorniac@uconn.edu