

La Salle University, Center for International Education

Number of Placements: 2

Location: Mexico City, Mexico

URL: <http://ciel.ulsa.edu.mx/>

Field/Subject Area:

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Position Description:

Placements are available at any of these 5 organizations as per student interest, eligibility and appropriate match with the organization.

1. El Caracol: www.elcaracol.org

A private, not for profit organization assists run away children/ youth and street kids. Through counseling and emotional support, the organization sets out to provide youth with life skills techniques to become an active member of society.

El Caracol is focused on the following issues:

- Lobbying for improved public policies for Homeless
- Empowerment of homeless groups
- Research
- Communications

Areas of activities for interns

1. Street intervention
Educational: intervention, human rights defense
2. Research:
3. Communications: social networks, web site

2. Christel House: www.mx.christelhouse.org

Christel House of México A.C. is a private elementary and middle school founded in 2004 to help underprivileged children and their families in poor, underprivileged districts of Mexico City. They offer the following programs:

- Elementary and Secondary School: grades 1-10, incorporated to the Secretariat of Public Education
- Health Program for Students: Nutrition, prevention programs, dental, optical services
- Community Program: Parent support program, workshops, volunteer and tutor support program
- Social Service Program: students volunteer with other organizations
- Ex-Alumni Program: follow up program which offers support services, workshops, addiction prevention programs, recreational activities

Position Purpose:

- Interact and communicate with children in specific activities.
- Assist the Community Service Outreach worker.
- Support teaching staff.

3. Casa Arturo Mundet Nursing Home for The Elderly

The nursing home is a private institution that receives government funds. They care for people over 65 whose families have abandoned them or that they may not be able to support them.

The facilities are divided in three sections, women's, men's and couple's. There is also a clinic and activity rooms. The government provides the Home with qualified staff members, including doctors, nurses, psychologists, therapists, etc. Residents receive medical attention and participate in a series of physical activities such as exercise classes, knitting, ceramics, carpentry, and other manual skills. Many of the products made by the residents are sold in the nursing home.

Position Purpose:

- Interact and communicate with senior citizens
- Assist in providing care to older adults
- Facilitate social and recreational integration of the residents

4. Casa Refugiado: www.casarefugiado.org

Casa Refugiado is a Civil Association that provides humanitarian assistance to persons seeking refugee status, refugees, and stateless persons. Casa Refugiado offers complementary protection, limited support for food, health and primary education. Supports people with special needs, promotes initiatives for local integration and support for the process of family reunification. It also organizes and carries out education and awareness for the public on the situation of refugees in Mexico and the creation and strengthening of support networks.

Position Purpose:

- Assist in providing care to infants and babies.
- Assist in organizing social and recreational activities for children.
- Communicate with young children and foment learning skills.
- Facilitate social and recreational integration of children.

5. CAFEMIN

CAFEMIN is a migrant service organization run by Hermanas Josefinas. CAFEMIN is a refugee center and transit shelter for female migrants. Focus is to serve and support women and families. The mission of the center is to support and offer integrated humanitarian services such as temporary shelter and refugee assistance. Along with other NGO's, CAFEMIN provides humanitarian assistance, legal aid, health referrals and social support. With PRO EMPLEO, they provide training in technical areas to assist refugees in gaining relevant employment.

Position Purpose:

- Assist in organizing social and recreational activities for children of migrants.
- Assist in office with administrative work.
- Facilitate social and recreational integration of migrants
- Support volunteer staff.

Complete all tasks assigned, which includes but is not limited to the responsibilities outlined above.

Preferred start date: Mid May

Qualifications/skills required:

- Ability to interact with children and seniors
- Ability to adapt to different work environments
- Ability to work with limited resources
- Knowledge of current issues in Mexico, social structure of Mexico and existence of defined social classes.

Language requirements:

Fluent Spanish

Highlights of Organization/background information:

Founded in 1962, La Salle University is among Mexico's most innovative private universities, noted for the facilities offered on campus, the personal attention given to the student and its traditional values and community spirit. It is centrally located within the heart of the trendy Colonia Condesa, which can be easily reached by subway, bus or taxi. It is also within walking distance of many museums, bookstores, restaurants, cafés and movie theatres and only a 20-minute cab ride from the historic downtown center of Mexico City.

At the Center for International Education (CIEL), we take pride in promoting intercultural programs designed to build bridges between Mexico and other nations. Through intellectually challenging and emotionally stimulating learning experiences, we bring participants face to face with Mexican culture and reality.

The Special Programs Office is the contact at CIEL, La Salle. The coordination office provides information on La Salle homestays prior to arrival, initial orientation upon arrival, sets up and accompanies intern to interview and offers guidance and assistance throughout the internship period. Students receive a La Salle student ID, which permits the access to University facilities such as the gym, library and cultural events. Interns are also invited to participate in cultural excursions that are organized by CIEL.