

## Template for Internship Placement York International Global Internships

In an effort to ensure that next year's York intern makes a positive contribution to the host organisation and that the intern has a meaningful experience, we kindly ask that you complete this form with as much detail as possible. Experience has shown that the more specific you can be with the details of what is expected, the greater the satisfaction of all parties.

Many thanks and please do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have.

The Global Internships Team

**Name of Organisation:** Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC)

**URL for organisation/project:** <http://coterc.org>

**Local Address:** Box 335, Pickering, Ontario L1V 2R6, Canada

**Name of Contact Person:** Dr. Kymberley Snarr

**Title:** Chair of COTERC BOD

**Phone:** 519-923-6458

**E-mail:** [chair@coterc.org](mailto:chair@coterc.org)

**Proposed Internship Site (location):** Cano Palma Biological Station, Tortuguero, Limon Province, Costa Rica

**Description of Organisation:** The Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation (COTERC) is a registered Canadian and Costa Rican Charity that was formed in 1991. COTERC operates Cano Palma Biological Station, which is located north of Tortuguero in the Limon Province on the northeast Caribbean coast of Costa Rica.

The chief mandates of the organization are to provide leadership in conservation, education and research for the preservation of tropical rainforests. The goal is to extend efforts in Neotropical conservation to extend beyond the stations 40 hectares.

The mission of the Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation is to provide leadership in education, research, conservation and the educated use of natural resources in the tropics.

Several projects are underway at the station, they include:

- The "Save an Acre" program, a fund expressly for the purchase of conservation through land purchase.
- Educational programs and support to local schools and universities in Costa Rica, Canada and abroad.

- A volunteer program which provides biology students and other interested parties an opportunity to live in a Neotropical rainforest and participate in the station's daily operations. Volunteers learn about biological studies and conservation efforts in the tropics. They also get personally involved in working on many aspects of conservation. This includes an ongoing inventory of the flora and fauna of the Tortuguero region, monitoring program for resident and migrating birds and shorebirds, large mammals, herpetology, plant phenology and sea turtles, and daily collection of meteorological data. They may also be involved in tours of the station by some of the area's tourists with visitors are given an interpretive lecture by volunteers and staff to help explain the local ecosystem and some of the conservation issues.

Cano Palma Biological Station is a small outpost on Cano Palma in the Barra Del Colorado Wildlife Refuge. The station is situated in lowland flooded tropical wet forest and receives between six and seven meters of rain annually. It is considered one of the most bio diverse areas of Costa Rica. Cano Palma functions as a biological field station located in the rainforest. All visitors to Cano Palma arrive by boat. There are no roads in this area and all travel is done along a system of rivers and canals. Living facilities are clean and comfortable but basic. Volunteers, researchers and students share a dormitory which can house 30 people.

**Name of Mentor/Supervisor (if different from above):** Charlotte Foale

**Title:** Station Manager, Cano Palma Biological Station, Costa Rica

**Phone:** +506 27098052

**E-mail:** station@coterc.org

**Internship Position Title:** Research Assistant for a Marine Turtle Study for North Beach

**Brief Job Description (outlining role of intern in organization/project):**

Tortuguero Beach is known to be one of the largest nesting sites for green sea turtles in the world. For many years, research and conservation work has maintained a strong population of sea turtles nesting on the beach south of the mouth of the Tortuguero River. Historically, sea turtles have been observed nesting north of the river mouth. These specimens are not protected, and many are being poached and their eggs destroyed.

The intern will work under the guidance of the COTERC manager at Caño Palma Biological Station, and with current program leaders on the north beach with the ongoing sea turtle conservation program. The intern will also assist other research projects as deemed necessary.

The intern will:

- Continue with ongoing data collection of sea turtle conservation project already initiated by previous interns, and now which has been fleshed out into a full program which involves evening and morning walks with set protocols.
- Work on Marine Turtle Tagging Program under Station Manager, current partner expedition leaders, and MINAET (Government Agency responsible for marine turtles and Environment).
- Assist other interns in other research projects as deemed necessary.
- Work with station manager, Research Coordinator, and all partners to ensure that the turtle protocol effectively carried out.

- Gain an understanding of legal aspects of the country and the area in question as it pertains to developing this program.
- Liaise, work with, and utilize staff and volunteers from set partners to help with program development. It must be noted that safety guidelines set by the station must be adhered to while working in Costa Rica.
- Prepare and present a poster-style presentation for interns/station visitors on a relevant conservation/biology topic
- Assist community interns as needed in the preparation and delivery of educational materials, to enhance local students' understanding of the ecosystem and conservation issues.
- Work with other York University intern(s) and other CPBS station interns, staff, and other researchers in a cooperative manner.

From the three month study, the intern will work alongside other interns from their program to develop/update a handover report for future interns. This report is expected within one month of return to Canada and is deliverable to the two contacts listed above.

**Please list specific tasks or projects the intern will be expected to complete during the internship:**

- Working on developing a strong understanding of the sea turtle project, and a potential method to improve the project, adapting to human caused environmental problems
- Aiding in suggesting or developing a direction for future interns to aid the program based on their experiences in the program.
- Participating in night and morning patrols, as well as all aspects of station life
- Possibly helping to develop graphics, brochures and educational programs that can be used within the school system and local villages, to help deter poaching, time permitted.
- Completing a written final report to note what work was done, and what is still required to ensure that the program is operational.

**Skill set – Please list the skills you expect interns to arrive with. This list can include hard skills (i.e. web design, Geographic Information Systems, participatory theatre) and soft skills (i.e. facilitation, team player, ability to work independently)**

- Biological background preferred, with knowledge of conservation biology and the development of renewable resource management.
- Physically able to walk up to 10 kilometers on wet sand in poor light in an efficient manner in each working day
- Ability to live and work in an isolated situation.
- Good skills in moderating and problem solving.
- Basic certification in emergency first aid an asset

**Language Skills**

Language	Written			Spoken			B - Beginner I - Intermediate A - Advanced
English	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
French	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Additional Languages</b>	<b>Written</b>			<b>Spoken</b>			

Spanish	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Click here to enter text.	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Click here to enter text.	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	

**What knowledge should the intern have prior to arrival? Please identify historical, social, political, ideological issues (i.e. human rights, art history, popular theatre, etc.).**

Click here to enter text.

**Expected hours of daily work:** Hours can be unpredictable working in conversation, and we work a typical 6-day Costa Rican week. It is difficult to be away from the station during time off due to its remoteness.

**Expected days of work:** varied

**The internship will be for a period of 3 months between May and August. Please indicate if you have a preferred starting date for the intern during this period.**

Late May

**York University conducts a competitive selection process. Please let us know how you would like to participate in this process.**

- **Would like to receive a copy of all applications received for the internship and send a shortlist of candidates?** Yes
- **If yes, when would you need to receive the applications by?** 3/1/2023
- **Would like to participate in the interview process?** Yes
- **Other: (specify)**

**Thank you for your cooperation!**