

## **Ascend Adventure Travel and the Ascend Alliance International Internship Program**

### **Ascend Alliance and Ascend Adventure Travel:**

**Ascend Adventure Travel** partners with the **Ascend Alliance** to offer international internships in Cuzco, Peru.

The **Ascend Alliance** is a unique organization where caring people make an individual impact at home and across the world. The Ascend Alliance works to build Sustainable Development Programs that transcend political, cultural, and language barriers to answer requests for life-saving programs in education, enterprise, health and simple technology.

**Ascend Adventure Travel** is a socially responsible travel business established in Cuzco, Peru that offers humanitarian service expeditions in which groups of students, families, doctors, and other socially conscious travelers get the opportunity to engage in “Volunteerism” and “Solidarity Travel.” Intercultural exchange and international community development are the main focuses of Ascend Travel’s social entrepreneurship business model. Instead of relying on generous donors, Ascend Travel partners with organizations like Ascend Alliance to organize service expeditions that raise money and awareness of important development projects that bring Andean communities out of poverty. Ascend Travel also sells and operates tour packages to destinations like Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley of the Incas to help cover its operational expenses.

### **Language Requirements;**

Spanish (Preferred)

German (For pursuing Germany market segment, translating marketing materials)

French (For pursuing France market segment, translating marketing materials)

### **Preference Given to Students Who Have:**

\_\_ Completed previous internships with private business, have business experience, and/or applicable skills relevant to humanitarian development and travel and tourism.

\_\_ Prior international experience including study abroad, personal travel, humanitarian and/or religious service.

### **Cost:**

Students must be prepared to cover flight, living and transportation expenses, personal expenses, health insurance, and fees for visa and passport applications

(However, Peru offers a free 183 volunteer visa that is issued at arrival in Lima, Peru).

**Housing:**

Housing may be provided by Ascend Adventure Travel based on availability.

**Application Process:**

Contact Ascend Travel at [info@ascendtravelperu.com](mailto:info@ascendtravelperu.com) for an internship application.

**Orientation:**

Orientation is provided by the Ascend Alliance and online via an e-learning platform that takes you through the ins-and-outs of the program.

**In-Country Intern Duties and Responsibilities Introduction**



The projects and tasks that you will be performing are specific to the four Program Solution Areas 1) Education 2) Enterprise 3) Health 4) Technology & Construction. Also, interns will help manage the travel office and organize service expeditions. There are several things to keep in mind that will enable you to be more effective and have a positive experience in Peru.

1. Be sensitive and respectful to the in-country staff. The staff members are well-educated, highly qualified men and women. They are also very kind and fun. You will love them! It is important to remember that you are the guest and that you are there to assist and not take charge.

It is also important to keep in mind they are responsible for your safety while in the country. Keep them informed of your plans and where you are going so they don't have to worry.

2. Be observant and mindful of cultural differences. It is recommended that you have a meeting with the staff when you first arrive to discuss the differences between Peruvian and American cultures. Here are some questions you might want to consider:

- What are some of the most important issues that come up with foreigners?
  - What words or statements should I avoid?
3. Logistics can be frustrating. Ascend works in multiple communities in every country. Areas and villages are often vast and spread out. As an intern, planning activities and appointments with communities can be difficult because of the language barrier and transportation restrictions. Life in other countries, especially those in the developing world, moves at a different pace—often one that is slow and frustrating. Projects that could be completed in a couple of hours in the United States (thanks to Home Depot and good freeway systems) often take a couple of days in these countries. Be patient and try to let people learn at their level and pace.
  4. You will often be staying a week at a time in a rural community in a “vivencial” experience, meaning you will stay in their houses (in comfortable but simple additions that were constructed with tourists in mind), eat their food, and observe their traditions. The communities where Ascend and Ascend Travel work are safe and friendly. It is tough to adjust to this simple way of life (no phones or internet), but you will make amazing friendships and learn more about yourself and others than you thought possible.

## **Duties & Responsibilities**

### **1. Education**

- a. Help staff with the following:
  - i. Developing and arranging human rights workshops, environmental protection workshops and activities, computer literacy and typing, leadership training, disaster preparedness and community safety, family violence prevention, English classes and alcohol abuse prevention
  - ii. Maintaining and updating lessons being taught/ quarterly reports
  - iii. Working to find acceptable supplemental learning materials
  - iv. Working to find acceptable implementing and funding partners
  - v. Follow-up

### **2. Enterprise**

- a. Help staff with the following:
  - i. Train Staff and community workers in the Ascend Business Training program (Goal setting, record keeping, sales, cash flow, budgeting, good habits, IT, marketing, publicity, labor rights, taxes, and customer service)
  - ii. Assess community needs, abilities and desires
  - iii. Maintain and update lessons being taught and quarterly reports
  - iv. Work to find and develop acceptable supplemental learning

- materials
- v. Work to find acceptable implementing and funding partners
- vi. Work to partner with banks or other MFIs
- vii. Work to find mentors and role models for ABT students
- viii. Visit and help current and graduated ABT students
- ix. Follow-up

### **3. Health**

- a. Assist the staff in the following:
  - i. Developing and arranging portable medical clinics, health fairs at schools, health education through puppets, first aid training and community health worker training workshops
  - ii. Assess community needs, abilities and desires
  - iii. Maintain and update lessons being taught and quarterly reports
  - iv. Work to find and develop acceptable supplemental learning materials relating to specific local health needs
  - v. Work to find acceptable implementing and funding partners
  - vi. Work to partner with governments and other public and private health care providers
  - vii. Follow-up

### **4. Technology & Construction**

- a. Assist the staff in the following:
  - i. Constructing and maintaining (along with community members) projects such as community centers, libraries, schools, waterless latrines, improved stoves, greenhouses, production centers, waste management centers, water and irrigation systems, etc. Also, undertaking productive reforestation projects
  - ii. Maintain and update lessons being taught and quarterly reports
  - iii. Work to find and develop acceptable supplemental learning materials using local technologies
  - iv. Work to find acceptable implementing and funding partners
  - v. Work to partner with governments and other NGOs
  - vi. Follow-up

### **5. Service Expedition Administration**

- a. Assist the staff in the following:
  - i. Arranging, recruiting, and developing service expeditions
  - ii. Arranging activities, accommodations, transportation, and food for service expeditions
  - iii. Being present and helping Ascend Travel staff with fulfillment of service expedition
  - iv. Attending to every need and insuring the safety and satisfaction of service expeditioners during their time in Cuzco (Remember that these expeditioners help fund the majority of our operations!)

## **6. Travel Agency Office Administration**

- a. Assist the staff in the following:
  - i. Staffing and attending to customers in Ascend Travel's Cuzco brick-and-mortar storefront near the main tourist plaza
  - ii. Responding to e-mail and telephone inquiries, and arranging local tours (a portion of the proceeds go to fund humanitarian projects)
  - iii. Helping design promotional materials and writing blogs to be included in Ascend Travel's website
  - iv. Traveling to exotic locations and blogging about it and establishing strategic alliances (You are encouraged to take vacation time BUT you must write all about it!)

You do not need to work on all of these areas and projects. Together with the staff you can work to develop your job description based on your interests and the needs of the communities and the office. As you spend more time working on the projects you will find other areas that may need attention and improvement. Present the ideas and suggestions to the staff and together you can develop an action plan.

Please email us at [info@ascendtravelperu.com](mailto:info@ascendtravelperu.com) for an internship application!