Program in Lake Atitlán, Guatemala

Guatemala-Field School

9th NC State University Ethnographic Field School in Lake Atitlán, Guatemala

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Learning through real experience
Traveling to real contexts
Working with real people...
Objectives:

• Provide students with fundamental ethnographic and qualitative skills

• Provide participants with professional experience in their chosen field

• Mentor students in a research or internship project
Living with a Mayan Family...
Apply Knowledge to:

- Environmental and natural resource issues
- Tourism
- Health and medicine
- Globalization and national politics
- Social welfare, social justice and poverty
- Education
- Child nutrition
- Family
- Gender
- Let us help you design your project
Living in “Tierra Maya”...
Learning with the Mayas...
Research Skills:

• Carrying out field research projects
• Engaging in community-based internships
• Selecting appropriate research methods
• Developing rapport building devices
• Understanding ethical issues in field work.
• Developing skills to handle culture shock.
Participants develop research skills:

• Using laptop computers for research tasks
• Doing formal and informal interviewing
• Working with local people and translators
• Using systematic observation
• Learning appropriate sampling procedures
• Carrying out cognitive mapping techniques
• Doing cultural domain studies
Learn analytic skills:

- Coding ethnographic data
- Preparing effective data analyses
- Writing effective research reports
...and “skills”
Field-note jottings
+ project management skills:

• Setting time-delineated project activities

• Writing field notes and keep a journal

• Using field-note taking software
Learning environment
Small group meeting near Tzununá

Learning environment
Learning environment

Final research presentation
Points of emphasis:

• 7.5 weeks – one fee covers all expenses
• Home stay with Maya family
• Research topics tailored to student interest
• Student-determined time management
• Emphasis on research and practice
• Service-learning project available
• Individualized community placements
Networking with other students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program costs:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$3100</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCLUDES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Six course credits (undergraduate or graduate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cell phone use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Housing – Maya family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Three meals/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Laundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Excursions and entrance fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Local transportation</td>
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<td>• Health/accident insurance</td>
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- For 7.5 weeks
- All expenses included except incidentals and airfare
- Airfare costs are about $500 rt
Participants try out Maya traditional dress during their 7.5 week experience.
The placement

Students are placed in 1 of 14 towns around the 55 mi$^2$ lake. Travel is by boat or pickup truck.
Panajachel, Lake Atitlán, is on a delta & is the main town of the area.
Previous years:

- Tourism and change
- Eco-tourism and conservation
- Kinship and courtship
- Traditional medicine
- Access to medical care
- Gender and sports
- Gender and power
- Marketing tourism and Maya identity
- Weaving and gender roles
- Women’s Roles in Natural Resource Conservation
- Authenticity and tourism development
- Expatriates and community development
- Art for a tourist market in Panajachel
- Environmental sources of health problems
- Tradition, art and apprentices NGOs, local communities and cooperatives
- New Agers and post-modernist tourists
- Micro-credit NGOs in Lake Atitlán
- Fishermen, tradition and change in Sta Catarina Palopó
- Ethnography of a school
- Nutrition and schooling
- Maya child disciplining strategies
- Identity and change in traditional dress
- Maternal mortality in child birth
- Sanitation, culture and economy: management of solid wastes
- Eco-heritage and identity development in Santiago, Atitlán
Lifestyles
History
Immersion
Join us!

Living in "Tierra Maya"…