

Service learning

Service learning — a structured work experience or internship — is a central component of the ACM summer programs in Mexico and India. Students work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on community-based projects. Placements are based on the skills required for the position and on the student's interest in the NGO's focus.

Mexico Program

Universidad La Salle staff will help place each student with an organization in Mexico City that meets the needs of the student and is appropriate for their Spanish language abilities.

The program has connections with NGOs that work in a wide variety of areas, such as literacy, women's health, social services, and human rights.



Grace Robbia

Service learning at an orphanage in Mexico City (above) and in a village in India (below).

India Program

ACM's service learning partner in India is Maitri, an organization involved in health, nutrition, education, environmental, and development projects throughout the country. Maitri has been very active in Pune and in rural tribal areas in the Melghat region, a day's travel by train and car from Pune.

During the first two weeks, students will learn about community-based projects coordinated by Maitri, both in Pune and in villages in the Melghat region. Working closely with Maitri staff, students will choose either an urban placement in Pune or a rural placement in one of the villages for the rest of the program.



Holly MacBride



Above: Mexico City's downtown square.
Cover: Students with children in the village where they worked on their service learning projects in India. (Photo courtesy of Dan Read)

The ACM Mexico Summer Program and the ACM India Summer Program were created with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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205 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 220, Chicago, IL 60606
312.263.5000 Fax 312.263.5879 www.acm.edu

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Summer Programs in Mexico & India

Service Learning ♦ Language & Culture



Two programs featuring:

- ♦ Service learning with an NGO (non-governmental organization)
- ♦ Intensive language instruction & cultural immersion
- ♦ Home stays with host families

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Mexico Summer Program: Service Learning & Language Immersion



With 22 million residents, Mexico City is the sprawling and vibrant cultural, economic, and political center of Mexico. Spending the summer in Mexico City is ideal for students who want to immerse themselves in an urban environment where Spanish language and the diverse cultures of Mexico come together.

Top: On an excursion to the Pyramid of the Sun.
Middle: A student with her host mother.
Bottom: On the campus of Universidad La Salle.



Grace Robia

In Mexico City, students are based at the Center for International Education (CIEL) at Universidad La Salle.

Universidad La Salle is one of the largest and most prestigious private universities in Mexico. It has a large, attractive campus located in the heart of the trendy, bohemian neighborhood of La Condesa.

The CIEL staff has extensive experience organizing culture and language programs for international students, setting up home stays, placing students in service learning experiences, and organizing speakers and local excursions.



Christina Moore



Language & cultural immersion

The ACM Summer Programs in Mexico and India provide rich immersion experiences in these two fascinating countries.

- Intensive language study: Spanish on the Mexico Program and Hindi on the India Program.
- Home stays with local families (in both Mexico and India) or living in a rural village (in India) give students an inside view of everyday life.
- Presentations on culture and society and a variety of field trips.

India Summer Program: Service Learning & Cultural Immersion

Pune, a city of over three million in the state of Maharashtra, is known as a city of intellectual and artistic activity, as well as an industrial center.

Students are introduced to Indian culture and society, both urban and rural, and to development issues during a two-week orientation that includes time in Pune and a rural village. The remaining

weeks are devoted to a service learning placement with an NGO in the city of Pune or a rural village.

The local staff of ACM's fall semester program in Pune handle all arrangements for the summer program in coordination with Maitri, a volunteer-based NGO in India.



Dan Reed



Scenes in Pune (above and at left) and in a village (far left).

For more details, go to www.acm.edu/summer

Dates

Mexico Program: Six weeks, typically early June to mid-July, with an option for an additional two-week extension.

India Program: Six weeks, typically mid-June through July, with an option for an additional two-week extension.

Language requirement

Mexico Program: Two semesters of Spanish language or the equivalent.

India Program: No language prerequisite.

Credits Students may be able to make arrangements with their colleges to receive internship and/or language credit.

Curriculum

Service learning In both programs, students participate in a daily structured work experience with a non-governmental organization (NGO).

Language classes

Mexico Program: Daily Spanish instruction in small classes is equivalent to a semester-length course.

India Program: Intensive instruction at the beginning of the program in conversational Hindi.

Cultural orientation Presentations and field trips in both programs.

Living arrangements

Mexico Program: Students live with Mexican host families, which provide two meals per day and laundry. Students will typically be placed in pairs with the host families.

India Program: Students live with families in Pune and in Maitri housing during their time in a village; most meals are provided.

Costs For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to www.acm.edu/summer.

How to apply

- To access the ACM application, please go to www.acm.edu/apply.
- Application deadline: March 15