



PERU INTERNSHIP:
CAREER EXPLORATION
IN STEM WITH FOCUS ON
ENGINEERING &
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

21 DAY INTERNSHIP



HIGHLIGHTS

- Engage in hands-on engineering projects in rural communities as you learn about current challenges and how science and technology hold the key to solutions
- Learn from experienced professionals about ancient Inca engineering and how it comes into play today
- Spend a night in a traditional artisanal village with a Quechua host and learn about Andean traditions and culture
- Get immersed in authentic Peruvian cultural activities in the highland communities nearby
- Embark on a two-day expedition to Machu Picchu and camp among stunning mountains
- Earn a total of 60 internship hours throughout the course of your time on-program



ACTIVITY LEVEL

- Heavy



2025 PROGRAM DATES

- June 25 – July 15
- July 20 – August 09



GET IN TOUCH!

experiencegla.com
+1 858-771-0645
@GLAteens



Embark on a transformative STEM journey in Peru, where engineering meets adventure, and where curiosity unlocks the mysteries of ancient South American landscapes.

OVERVIEW

Dive into a hands-on STEM internship in Peru's majestic Sacred Valley, where you'll lead engineering projects in rural communities. Learn from experts in the field to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and triumphs of modern-day Quechua communities and explore innovative and traditional methods of engineering. Engage with highland communities, learn about artisanal and agricultural practices and witness the ancient techniques that have sustained generations.

Our journey continues on a 3-day adventure to a Tipón archaeological site, followed by a Quechua homestay and then rafting and zip lining!





INTERSHIP LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Gain a deeper insight on your goals and professional growth areas, as well as a stronger understanding of Peru and the STEM field.
2. Attain knowledge and understanding of recent trends, terminology and case studies in the Sciences and STEM.
3. Learn to recognize and articulate multiple perspectives within a larger social context.
4. Learn to critically analyze quantitative and qualitative sources of information to make informed opinions.
5. Learn to observe and analyze real places and situations, understanding how impacts and results can be interpreted and applied within specific contexts.

INTERSHIP PARTNER SNAPSHOT: MEDLIFE

Our partner for this internship, MEDLIFE, began operations in Cuzco, Peru in 2005.

MEDLIFE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that partners with low-income communities in Latin America and Africa to improve their access to medicine, education and community development projects.

Its mission is to build a worldwide movement empowering the poor in their fight for equal access to healthcare, education and a safe home.

MEDLIFE empowers students and volunteers to become advocates for change.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as the framework for discussions and the self-study coursework for our student interns here in Peru. During this travel internship you will focus on three SDGs, including:

INTERSHIP FOCUS AREA: SCIENCES & STEM



Explore topics related to building the case for clean water and sustainable innovation practices.



CURRICULUM & MERITS

Complete a core curriculum with your peers and through the guidance of your internship supervisor. Build your personal competitive edge as part of a cohort of student interns working in partnership with our non-profit partner. Create a portfolio from completed project work to enhance your college application or future career resume.

By completing this travel internship, you will earn:

- CliftonStrengths Assessment & Debrief
- Personal Mission Statement Updated
- Resume or LinkedIn Resume
- Letter of Recommendation completed by your Internship Supervisor & Internship Director
- Certificate of Completion (60 hours)
- Certificate of Service Hours (variable per internship)
- Professional Headshots for Resume or CV
- Portfolio of Evidence/Internship Log Book (if needed)
- Recommendations via Common App
- Optional: College Credit from Portland State University

Global Leadership Adventures can also provide any supporting documentation and serve as an organization of record, should you want to earn college credits for your internship.

OPTIONAL COLLEGE CREDIT

Global Leadership Adventures is extremely proud to partner with Portland State University, based in Portland, Oregon, to offer college credit for our student interns who successfully complete all requirements for the internship.

Student interns are welcome to enroll in the internship for Portland State University credit. This internship course curriculum is fully accredited for U.S. undergraduate credit through PSU. Credits are transferable to other colleges and universities, though please note that it is the responsibility of each intern to confirm with their university of intent that these quarter credits will be accepted at the institution.

Getting college credit during high school has so many benefits. It can help with earning scholarships for college and even improve your chance of admission into your university of choice.

The additional fee to earn college credit from Portland State University is \$750.00. Though recommended, you are not required to purchase the college credit add-on as it is 100% optional!

NOTICE ON INTERNSHIP UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2025, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.



ITINERARY

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO PERU!

Fly into Cuzco (CUZ), where staff will be waiting to greet you with open arms and then take you to the Sacred Valley, where our Home Base is located. Meet up with your fellow travelers and get acquainted with your new internship family. We will spend the evening getting to know each other and discussing an important safety orientation.

DAY 2: ORIENTATION & REALITY TOUR

Get ready for an extensive orientation to go over group objectives, learning and internship objectives, and helpful hints to help get accustomed to the culture. Break into Mentor groups and get to know each other better with icebreakers and group activities before heading out to our first day of exploration.

In the afternoon, we will meet the leaders of MEDLIFE, the non-profit organization we'll be working with over the next few weeks. Together, we'll go visit a highland village that has benefitted from a water infrastructure project in the past. Learn how access to water nourishes the local economy, ecology, and health outcomes of this community.

DAYS 3-5: SERVICE PROJECT & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Over the next three days, we'll work in an Andean community alongside local residents and an engineer to provide sustainable water access for the community's agricultural needs. You will learn essential engineering principles, from analyzing topography to intricate calculations, as you actively contribute to addressing critical water access challenges.

In the afternoons and evenings, we'll dive into the internship curriculum that will prepare you to engage in an individual or group project throughout your program. We'll also receive a captivating talk from a water conservation professional one evening.

DAYS 6-7: MARAS SALT MINES, KAYAKING & CUZCO CITY EXPLORATION

Today, we'll visit the pre-hispanic Maras Salt Mines to marvel at the Incan engineering that has stood the test of time. Following this, we'll venture to Piuray Lagoon for a kayaking adventure, exploring the source of Cuzco's water.

In the afternoon, we'll reach Cuzco, dine in the historical center and stroll through the illuminated Plaza de Armas. The next day, we'll tour the historical center and the quaint cobblestone streets. Concluding our day, we'll return to our Home Base in the Sacred Valley for deserved rest.



DAYS 8-11: SERVICE PROJECT, TEXTILES & PERUVIAN DANCE

We'll return to our project – working alongside community members and engineers to support local agriculture and natural resources' access. Exploring beyond, we'll venture into neighboring communities to learn about the backstrap weaving traditions passed down from Inca times.

In the evenings, you will engage in cultural activities such as Peruvian dance: immerse yourself in the local culture by learning the rhythms and steps of traditional Andean music!

We'll also launch into the internship project, and curriculum activities. A thought-provoking guest speaker will add depth to our experience, offering unique insights into the intersection of community, conservation and sustainable development.

DAY 12: HIGHLAND ART CLASS & GUEST SPEAKER

Today we'll visit a highland village where you'll try your hand at molding clay ceramics and explore pre-Hispanic instruments, immersing yourself in the local culture one last time. In the afternoon, we'll visit the Pisac Archaeological Site, a stunning Inca complex renowned for its agricultural terraces, ceremonial structures, and panoramic views of the Andean landscape. Look at the advanced Incan engineering, including its well-preserved water channels and strategic mountain-top location, providing defense and spiritual significance! Following this, we'll participate in leadership activities that will allow us to reflect on the progress of our journey so far. Pack your bags and rest well before embarking on the Lares Trek and Machu Picchu the next day!

DAYS 13-14: LARES TREK

¡Vamonos! For the first part of our journey to Machu Picchu, we will be transported to the starting point of our trek in the town of Lares. From there, we'll hike through traditional farming communities and alpine meadows to the first campsite, where we'll camp under the stars for the night.

The next morning, we'll continue on the Lares Trek and reach the highest point of the pass. We'll hike alongside local herds of alpacas before descending into the Sacred Valley. We'll board a train to Aguas Calientes, the town below Machu Picchu, and settle in for the evening before an early start the following day.

DAY 15: MACHU PICCHU

Today is the day! We'll take a bus to the ruins to explore the Lost City of the Incas. Our guide will be on hand to tell you more about the fascinating history of this UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site. In the afternoon, we'll eat lunch and visit the local artisanal market before taking the train back to Ollantaytambo and returning to our Home Base.

DAYS 16-17: SERVICE PROJECT, GUEST SPEAKERS & TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

As we return to our project, we'll focus on supporting local farmers by exploring sustainable water distribution solutions for the community. In the afternoon, we'll continue working on our internship projects and participate in team-building activities. We'll also have the privilege of hearing from community leaders, who will join us as guest speakers to offer valuable insights.



DAYS 16-17: SERVICE PROJECT, GUEST SPEAKERS & TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

Since this will be your final service days, make the most of it by going the extra mile to give back to the Sacred Valley community and connect deeply with those around you!

DAYS 18-19: QUECHUA HOMESTAY, WHITEWATER RAFTING & ZIPLINE

Embark on an unforgettable journey to the Southern Valley of Cuzco! Today, we'll visit a nearby Quechua community, where we'll cook, share stories with local families, and have a rich cultural exchange with the community, experiencing an authentic Andean lifestyle while staying overnight in adobe homes.



The following day, prepare for a thrilling whitewater rafting adventure, where we'll conquer Class II and III rapids, followed by a heart-pounding zipline experience. We'll return to our Home Base in the afternoon to relax and prepare for the project presentations the following day.

DAY 20: PROJECT PRESENTATIONS & FAREWELL DINNER

Today, we'll present our final projects to our nonprofit partner, combining everything we've observed and learned in the field over the past three weeks.

The best proposals will be shared with the community for consideration on how to distribute water in a structurally sound and equitable way. In the afternoon, we'll engage in a final leadership activity before our farewell dinner with local partners and hosts.



DAY 21: DEPARTURE DAY

Before we know it, our Peruvian adventure has come to an end. Head to the airport today with memories that will last a lifetime! Staff will assist students with their check-in and accompany them until they have safely departed for their gates. ¡Buen Viaje!



PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Tuition:** \$7,299
- **PSU College Credit Add-on:** \$750
- **Internship Hours:** 60
 - **Contact Hours:** 36
 - **Professional Development Hours:** 12
 - **Self Study:** 12
- **Ages:** 14 - 18
- **Student-to-Staff Ratio:** 6-to-1
- **Accommodations:** Exclusive Hotel Block
- **Arrival and Departure Airport:**
 - CUZ Arrival, CUZ Departure



GLA HOME BASE

Home Base is a locally-owned property in the Sacred Valley. Students stay in gender-segregated rooms and have ensuite bathrooms. During excursions, students will stay in local homestays, lodges, hotels and tents provided by GLA.

GLA HOME BASE OVERVIEW

- Pool
 - Home Base 1: Pisac - No
- Air conditioning
 - Home Base 1: Pisac - No
- Remote
 - Home Base 1: Pisac - No



FOOD

Home Base staff will prepare authentic Peruvian cuisine for you to try! In Peru, breakfast is simple and typically includes eggs, fresh rolls and jam. Lunch and dinner contain rice, potatoes, fish, and many locally-grown fruits, such as cherimoya, lucuma, citrus fruits and pineapple. Pollo a la brasa, also known as Peruvian chicken, is one of the most consumed dishes in the country. Salsas, sauces or dips are essential to Peruvian cuisine and a must on every table!



CLIMATE

The climate in the mountainous Cuzco region is dry and sunny in the summer months; however, mornings and nights are cold. Expect to strip down to short sleeves during the day, but wear hats, sweaters, gloves and scarves at night! The GLA Coordination team will provide enrolled students with a packing list specifically for the trekking portion of this program.



LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.



ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe

seventeen





OUR EXPECTATIONS

BE PRESENT | Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

NO TOLERANCE | GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

COMMUNITY-LED EXPERIENCES | GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

MENTORSHIP | GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.



ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At Global Leadership Adventures, we welcome age-eligible teens who are excited about the opportunity to travel to apply for our programs. To ensure a safe and meaningful experience for everyone in the group, we follow essential eligibility criteria. While our intent is not to be exclusionary, it's important to note that GLA programs are not therapeutic programs and are not able to support struggling teens seeking behavior or mental health outcomes.

Applications are carefully considered and screened to align with these criteria. It is not uncommon for GLA to require supporting documentation or information in the application screening process to confirm eligibility or suitability for program participation. Failure to disclose full medical history may also result in the application not being accepted, additional fees, and/or removal from the program. Please discuss with our team for any further clarification or concerns and visit <https://www.experiencegla.com/policies/essential-eligibility-criteria/> to view the full essential eligibility criteria list.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

CONTACT US | Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

ENROLL NOW | We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill up early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.

