

Volunteer and Intern Coordinator

General Requirements

We seek interns and volunteers who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit and do not back down from a challenge. Working in the Amazon is not for the faint of heart. The weather is hot and humid, there are often many bugs and mosquitoes. River travel is not the most comfortable form of transportation, though it is the most common. You are expected to work hard, with a high level of autonomy and initiative. When staying in indigenous communities, there is no running water or flushing toilets. While you may not permanently live in a community, you might be there for lengths of time depending on your role. Flexibility and patience are also extremely important. Things happen at their own pace here in the Amazon, and patience is definitely a virtue.

That being said, the rewards of persevering and facing these challenges yield innumerable opportunities for growth and learning.

Overall Role

Location: Pucallpa, Peru.

This is a unique opportunity to work closely with the entire Alianza Arkana team and Shipibo communities to identify and facilitate needs being met. The intern will gain an understanding of the entire organisation, and a deep knowledge of Shipibo culture to be able to guide volunteers and interns towards a sensitive way of working.

Our core team each need to be here for a minimum of 9 months in order to ensure that the organization has a stable infrastructure. We are looking for graduates or people with good experience in their area for these roles. To make this viable we offer free accommodation and if you are in need of more support to come and



work here, we can discuss a temporary stipend and options for applying for funding through us for your time here.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Work closely with all members of the Alianza Arkana team to identify gaps in the organization and how they can be filled using volunteers and interns.
- Gain an in-depth understanding of Shipibo culture and the region to be able to guide and advise volunteers in working sensitively and effectively.
- Visit communities regularly to maintain relationships and understand projects/ support volunteers and interns.
- Collaborate with ARIAP (Association of Peruvian Amazonian Indigenous Roots) on creating a comprehensive pre-arrival and post-arrival volunteer/intern orientation with a focus on cultural sensitivity and intercultural support.
- Source volunteers and interns, conduct interviews and help new members of the team integrate into the unique working and living environment here.
- Advertise for new team members through the Alianza Arkana website, social media outlets, universities and volunteer networks.
- Communicate with future staff on preparations for arrival and provide pre-arrival orientation via Skype with appropriate materials.
- Support volunteers/interns/staff upon arrival through a 2-week orientation process that has yet to be developed and formalized.
- Frequently check in with current staff to support progress and activity.
- Conduct exit interviews with volunteers/interns/staff to facilitate smooth transfer of materials and knowledge.
- Commit to a minimum of **NINE MONTHS**.

Qualifications and Skills

- Degree to Bachelors or Masters level and experience in self directed/non hierarchical work environments is ideal
- Experience creating materials and resources on cross-cultural exchange, intercultural education, and/or diversity.
- Intermediate Spanish or higher.
- Excellent verbal and written skills in English.
- Autonomous, organized, and passionate about Alianza Arkana's mission is essential.
- Compassionate, good with people, and positive problem-solving attitude.

As a key part of Alianza you will

- Gain a valuable and in depth understanding of how a non-hierarchical, grassroots NGO functions.
- Gain an in-depth understanding of Shipibo culture, forge valuable relationships with the indigenous communities and partner organisations that Alianza Arkana works with.
- Gain an overall knowledge of Alianza Arkana's projects and roles.

Details

Please read all of the text on the 'Get Involved' page of our website for specific details about this role.

How to Apply

Please send the following information to info@alianzaarkana.org with 'Get Involved' in the subject heading.

- Your curriculum vitae or resumé.
- A cover letter explaining in more detail your interest in partnering with Alianza Arkana.
- A completed Volunteer and Internship Questionnaire (see below).

Volunteer and Internship Questionnaire

Please respond to the questions below, keeping each of your responses within the limit of 150 words.

- Name:
- Age:
- Position you are applying for:
- When you would like to begin and for how long?
- What is your level of Spanish fluency?
- Describe what skills you possess that would be beneficial to our work.



- What experiences do you have working with diversity, and what have you learned based on these experiences?
- What experience do you have working with indigenous peoples, if any?
- What do you think the role of an NGO/Non-profit should be in working with indigenous peoples?
- How do you think creativity and the arts can be useful in work with indigenous peoples?
- What do you enjoy doing outside of work?
- Describe a peak experience when you thought life couldn't possibly get any better.
- How do you deal with conflict and discomfort?
- What would you like to learn from your time here?
- What do you need to unlearn?

We are happy you are interested in coming to the Peruvian Amazon to collaborate with Alianza Arkana!