Service learning

Service learning — a structured work experience or internship — is a central component of the ACM summer programs in Mexico and India. Students do meaningful work with local organizations on community-based projects. Placements are based on the skills required for the position and on the student's interest in the organization'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 with groups such as orphaned children, at-risk youth, and senior citizens.

India Program

ACM works with Akshara, a not-for-profit organization collaborating with UWC Mahindra College. Akshara's focus is improving education for children from impoverished rural communities in the surrounding villages, through supporting teachers in the existing rural school system. Volunteer activities with Akshara include assisting in school classrooms, at both primary and secondary levels, and working at a center for young women.

Students (and a young friend) near a village in rural India that was a service learning site.

Above: Mexico City's downtown square.

Cover: Student on the Summer Program in India during a visit to a school.

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

acm.edu/summer
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.

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 Marathi on the India Program.
- Home stays with local families in both Mexico and India give students an inside view of the rhythms of everyday life.
- Presentations on culture and society and a variety of field trips.

India Summer Program: Service Learning & Cultural Immersion

The program is based in the state of Maharashtra, which is among the more prosperous and stable areas of India and embraces nearly all of the nation’s religious, social, and ethnic variety.

Students spend the first few days in the dynamic city of Pune before moving to UWC Mahindra College (40 km from Pune) for the rest of the program. Service to others through community and campus engagement is a principal focus of the college, with a goal of enabling students to learn a positive but critical approach to solving problems.

The local staff of ACM’s fall semester program in Pune handle all of the arrangements for the summer program.

For more details, go to 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 late June through early August, 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 local community organization.

Language classes

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

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

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.

India Program: Students are housed on-campus at UWC Mahindra College. For students who are interested, there will be an option for a short home stay experience with a family in a local, rural village. Most meals are provided.

Costs

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

How to apply

- Access the ACM application at acm.edu/apply.
- Application deadline: March 15