



Business/Design & Merchandising Internships in Ghana

Spring, Summer, and Fall 2010 Programs

Isla offers a unique opportunity to live, learn, and serve in Ghana with a local host organization, Project Okurase. Immerse yourself in a short term volunteer project (2-8 weeks) or an internship (9-52 weeks) in a rich cultural, service learning experience that combines cross-cultural and community-based sustainable development training with a hands-on service project with Project Okurase.

Internship Description Isla offers short term volunteer work and internships in Ghana using a service learning model for individuals with an interest and background in business, social enterprise, and/or apparel design and merchandising to help create a small social and sustainable enterprise based on a new line of clothing designed for Project Okurase's fundraising efforts. Isla seeks a business and/or design and merchandising intern to assist the villagers with a business plan, provide business skills training, and help them on their way to a profitable business. In addition to business development and merchandising, there is an excellent opportunity for a design and merchandising intern to provide sewing training to local villagers.

By interning, you can be a part in the realization of Project Okurase's goals to develop:

- A family-based model of caring for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children.
- A model for job and skills training for youth, young adults, and women in the arts and building industry.
- A model for family and village-based formal education with special emphasis on female children.

How? Project Okurase plans to train locals to manufacture a line of apparel with the purpose of raising funds from local and international sales of the **poWEARful** line of clothing (named after Project Okurase's founder). The funds will aid in the development of a much needed center for HIV/AIDS orphans. In order to secure a locally operated, sustainable business, local villagers will be trained to manage the operations and obtain the skills necessary to meet their own needs instead of depending on external aid.

Typically, Isla participants will be involved in sustainable community development, teaching and training others, surveying local needs, planning projects as well as gaining valuable hands on experience – all in the realm of service learning.

Training is conducted by [Village Earth](#) whose founder, the late Maury Albertson, worked with Sergeant Shriver to establish the Peace Corps. Village Earth is one of the leading training organizations focusing on community-based sustainable development.

Housing You will stay in a small home with other volunteers in the village where Project Okurase is located. Your facility will have basic necessities and a toilet and you will be provided with traditional meals and amenities required for living.

Working Conditions In the village, volunteers should be prepared to have periods of no electricity and not to expect running water. However, clean water is available and a generator provides electricity at some times of day or night. It is very important for volunteers to be open to the culture and to realize that the people they work with in the village will have different ways of life and will not view things from a Western perspective. Listening is the greatest skill to have.

The Isla Experience

Isla facilitates unique short term volunteer and internship programs using a service learning model focused on sustainable development. We are based in Fort Collins, Colorado and work with numerous project partners in [Bulgaria, Ghana, India and Peru](#). Isla programs have [start dates](#) every season. Participation in Isla's programs will significantly upgrade your resume or professional profile and provide opportunities to get involved in international sustainable development initiatives.

Highlights

- [Sustainable development training](#) from [Village Earth](#), one of the leading community-based development training organizations in the U.S.
- Isla founders, board members, and staff with many years of experience working in international development.
- Individual placement unique to your skill set facilitated and supervised through a local host organization.
- Flexible programs from 2–9 weeks for short term volunteer work and from 9-52 weeks for internships.
- In-country cross-cultural orientation and mid-term reflection and training sessions led by Isla's group leaders.
- An opportunity to gain authentic international work experience beneficial in a competitive economy.

Cost

\$85 non-refundable application fee. Fees range from \$2500 for three weeks to \$3500 USD for 8 weeks with each additional week increasing by \$195. Detailed program fees may be found [here](#).

[Program fees](#) include all program costs (excluding airfare). Program costs include your placement, pre-departure web-based training in sustainable community development, in-country cross-cultural orientation and materials, basic language training, room and board, mid-service development workshops and reflection group sessions, final debriefing and evaluation, medical and emergency evacuation insurance, safety and security, in-country ground transportation from the airport to the training site, and experienced Isla staff. **Not included:** Domestic and international airfare and airport taxes, the cost of your passport, visas, and immunizations, and laundry service.

Scholarships and Fundraising Resource Kits

A large amount of interns and volunteers in service-learning fund the majority of their program through scholarships and fund raising. Isla provides an easy-to-use [Fundraising Resource Kit](#) and will help to provide you with [scholarship opportunities](#) that can apply to your internship program.

Application Process

- [Online Application](#)
- Statement of Purpose
- Resume/CV
- Non-refundable \$85 application fee
- 2 References



www.isla-serve.org

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