

Social Entrepreneur Corps

Ashoka Fellow Placement Profile

Ashoka Fellow: Albina Ruiz Rios
Location: Peru

Ashoka Fellow Description

Albina Ruiz is Ciudad Saludable's Executive Director. While pursuing a university degree in industrial engineering at the National Engineering University in Lima, Albina wrote a thesis on micro-enterprises and environmental sanitation in Lima's Northern Cone. As a student, she also organized university-sponsored cleanup campaigns along Lima's rivers.

In more recent years, Albina has published several articles and books on the prevention of cholera, the cleanup of municipalities and public service and the environment, and manuals on recycling and composting. She has also talked extensively in Peru and beyond on the organization and implementation of municipal solid waste disposal systems, environmental sanitation and community organization.

The project in which Albina is now engaged builds directly on her university thesis. And not surprisingly, she maintains her commitment to the "extracurricular" activity that claimed her attention as a university student. Now accompanied by her young daughter, Albina can often be seen on Lima's beaches, engaged in yet another "cleanup" campaign.

Albina is a Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year.

Organization Description

Ciudad Saludable is dedicated to the construction of a society that applies principles and technologies to promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources and the environment, reducing social inequities, promoting the application of cleaner technologies in industrial operations, in conjunction with strong States that protect the rights of the citizens, orientating the construction of responsible attitudes among the citizens. Some of its achievements include:

- Helping to constitute 13 micro enterprises that generate permanent job functions to more than 150 persons over 20 cities in the country. The results of these micro enterprises give benefits to approximately 3 million inhabitants. The enterprises include recycling companies, fruit producers, sanitary anvils, humus and compost processing plants.
- Solving the garbage problem in the Northern Cone of Lima by the implementation of a program of environmental management.
- Collaborating in the formulation of a general law of solid waste and its regulation (currently being produced).
- Helping organize informal recyclers (association of independent environmental workers in the recuperation of solid waste).

- Realizing large cultural campaigns of environmental sanitation with the participation of schools, teachers, and parents.

Summary Placement Information

Organization Name:	Ciudad Saludable (http://www.ciudadsaludable.org/)
Country:	Peru
Possible start dates:	First of month year round excluding December
Minimum length of time for volunteer:	3 months
Maximum length of time for volunteer:	1 year
How many volunteers can be acommodated at the same time?	6
What level of Spanish is required?	Intermediate
Is there a place(s) to study Spanish? If so, where?	Yes, there are opportunities for volunteers to study Spanish at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instituto Peruano Norteamericano - El Instituto El Sol - Habla! - Hispana Conexus Language Institute - El Centro de Idiomas de la Universidad del Pacifico - La Facultad de Humanidades y Lenguas Modernas de la Universidad Ricardo Palma
Where will the volunteer live?	We have a digital database of hostels, student houses, homestays, and independent apartments and rooms located in the most central districts of Metropolitan Lima. Volunteers can choose to stay wherever they feel most comfortable. In other provinces, local teams provide housing options with similar characteristics to those in Lima.
Average cost of hotel:	The average hostel or hotel costs \$10 per day (depending on the district), whiel an average student house costs \$220 per month, and an average homestay costs \$335 per month.

Is there a homestay option?	To date we have not worked with homestays, as volunteers prefer students houses where where they feel they have more opportunities to assume responsibilities and organize weekend trips with other students. However, some of our volunteers stay with homestay families through coordination with organizational counterparts.
Cost of homestay (including three meals per day):	Generally the cost is \$335 per month, which covers housing and 2 meals a day from Monday through Saturday. On Sunday the volunteer would generally eat out.
Cost of food (lunch, dinner, etc.):	In restaurants, average costs are as follows: Breakfast: \$1.50 Lunch: \$2.50 Dinner: \$5.00 If students prepare their own meals, they can expect to spend up to 40% less.
Expected cost of transportation (per month):	The cost depends on the distance between the site and the housing that the volunteer chooses, but the average cost is \$30 per month (this includes transportation Monday-Friday).
Is there internet access? How much does it cost?	An average internet cafe costs \$0.36 per hour, but many hostels, homestays, and student houses have WiFi.
How much does a cellphone cost?	One can buy a basic cellphone for \$29, and pre-paid phone cards are available from 5 soles (Peruvian currency).
Volunteer activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of recollection routes and neighborhood checkpoints. - Participation in activities to educate the community about cleaning campaigns, street processions, recycling competitions, etc. - Assisting in the development of the Continuing Education Program. - Participation in workshops in educational institutions, popular restaurants, etc. - Systematization of fieldwork. - Monitoring the use of recycling in businesses.