

# INTERNSHIPS

FS  
BOLIVIA



## VOLUNTEER ABROAD WITH FSD

Since 2000, FSD Bolivia has been a leader in providing hands-on international development and cultural immersion experiences to students and professionals.

Our internship and volunteer service programs supply the building blocks for establishing international development careers, strengthening graduate school applications, fulfilling practicum requirements, and cultivating professional relationships.

Participants choose FSD Bolivia for our effective, culturally sensitive approach to grassroots international development.

FSD Bolivia works in Cochabamba Bolivia — and has supported more than 30 community partner organizations and trained more than 500 volunteers. With a project sustainability rate of nearly 80 percent, FSD Bolivia offers training, grants, and volunteer support to our community partners to address their most pressing social, environmental, health, and economic priorities.



groups, worked to develop advertising campaigns to help raise awareness about environmental issues, helped create income-generating activities for abused women, helped in the labor inclusion for people with disabilities, and much more.

Our Development Internships start at just nine weeks in the field and can last as long as a full year. All our programs have a strong emphasis on community ownership and follow the principles of Asset-Based Community Development. Interns receive extensive training in sustainable development principles and again professional skills in project planning and budgeting, program evaluation, community assessment, and grant writing.

## RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INTERNSHIPS

FSD's International Development Internships provide opportunities for students and recent graduates to get hands-on experience in sustainable development while gaining insights into other cultures that can only be obtained through direct participation in the field. Our thoughtfully designed internships help you build your career and have a lasting impact on the people in the community in which you serve.

Interns co-create a development project with one of the many community development organizations that have partnered with FSD Bolivia. These organizations have strong links to vulnerable communities and proven expertise in their respective fields. During your time abroad, you work directly with community members, combining your coursework and experience with the expertise already present within the community. Past interns have succeeded in developing community outreach trainings to help the prevention of HIV-AIDS transmission in vulnerable

FSD Research Internships allow you to engage with our community partners to research local issues and develop potential solutions. Research Internships emphasize community-based participatory research (CBPR) to ensure that researchers work side by side with community members.

CBPR brings the researcher together with the community to state what the research question is and analyze its findings. The ultimate goal is knowledge creation that will serve to inform community action. This type of collaborative research model requires partnership development, cooperation, negotiation, flexibility, and commitment to addressing local issues. CBPR aims to accomplish development objectives through empowerment and by placing ownership in the hands of the very communities the model seeks to serve.

Research internships begin at a minimum of nine weeks or as long as a full year. We find the more time you are able to commit—planning an innovative research project, conducting careful data gathering, and analyzing your results alongside scholarly work and community input—the more effective the experience can be. Because the goal of the research is to create actionable knowledge for the community to use, flexibility is important.

# GROUP SERVICE TRIPS

Group Service Trips (GSTs) bring groups of people together to collaborate with community development organizations in creating sustainable programs. Ours is an intense, immersive program for people looking for exceptional training and experience in international development.

The trips are structured as short-term, high-impact programs. To ensure a productive and mutually beneficial experience, FSD Bolivia provides intensive coordination before and during the program. Participants join a group of other like-minded people or form their own,



along with colleagues or friends, for trips lasting from one to four weeks in duration. Groups of six or more travelers can provide critical support to one of many community-based organizations that FSD Bolivia partners with.

Our site team at site actively builds relationships with new and established host families and community partners to facilitate a safe culturally immerse experience and develop impactful programs. Our site has community partner organizations working in these nine focus areas: Youth an Education, Environmental Sustainability, Financial Inclusion, Gender Equity, Green Energy, Health, Human Rights, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Water and Sanitation.



# WHAT IS ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) focuses on the strengths, capacities, and opportunities within local communities rather than focusing on the deficits that may limit the growth of a community. We begin by listening to the priorities set by our community partners at our international program sites. We then Identify and utilize existing assets and capacity to address those priorities.

Changing the way we approach development means a change in attitudes and behaviors regarding the communities where we work. Rather than seeing problems, we look for potential. Instead of noticing gaps, discord, and poverty, we see local value and opportunities. We put communities in control, and they actively participate in goal setting, project planning, and implementation.

Interns and volunteers play a key role in our approach to development by acting as catalysts for change. We seek participants who are culturally respectful, collaborative, professional, and willing to support community initiatives. We build reciprocal relationships between our community partners and volunteers in order to enhance communities.



# HOW DOES THE FSD APPLICATION PROCESS WORK?

All applications are reviewed by FSD Bolivia's site team to determine program eligibility. Once your application has been reviewed, qualified applicants will receive an invitation to interview with our site team. Your interview helps determine your eligibility for specific volunteer opportunities and gives you an opportunity to learn more about the site and development sectors and meet our staff. You will then be notified whether you have been accepted to the program and what placements you have been select for. Once your participation in an FSD Bolivia program is confirmed, our team will work with you on your pre-departure preparation, paperwork, and host family placement. We accept applications on a rolling basis.

# APPLY ONLINE

Visit:  
[fsdbolivia.org/apply](https://fsdbolivia.org/apply)  
For more information about FSD Bolivia's programs, visit:  
[fsdbolivia.org](https://fsdbolivia.org)  
or contact:  
[info@fsdbolivia.org](mailto:info@fsdbolivia.org)



## ABOUT FSD Bolivia

FSD Bolivia facilitates sustainable change in communities by bringing together the voices of the community, the ongoing efforts of local groups and organizations, and the local resources identified in the community and connecting them with international students, professionals, and donors who want to make a difference.

### 1. International Training Programs

Students and professionals receive intensive training in grassroots sustainable development while also providing human resources and technical support to our community partners.

### 2. Capacity Building

Local site team offer our community partners on-site training that promote economically and environmentally sustainable programs.

### 3. Grantmaking

We support community-driven projects and capacity-building initiatives in sectors ranging from health an environment, to education, gender equality, and microfinance.

## LEARN

### Development training & in-country support

Our hands-on field training program experientially teaches interns the practical skills, development issues, and cultural competencies necessary for collaborative, community-driven project work. Each step of the way, our local site teams provide trainings, ensure safety, and guide project development.

## WORK

### Direct engagement & project experience

Interns are placed with partner organizations that optimally match their interests, skills, and objectives. These organizations are directed by community leaders who collaborate with interns on project work that sustainably addresses local needs and activates community involvement. A portion of the program fees is used as a seed grant to initiate project work. Additional funding is available through FSD Bolivia for strong projects. Responsibilities carried by interns in the field are directly proportionate to their skill level and the length of their internship.

## LIVE

### Cultural immersion

Rather than working and living as a group, FSD Bolivia interns live individually with host families and work individually with partner organizations to ensure cultural immersion. Training, cultural activities, discussion groups, workshops, and retreats are done as a group to promote the exchange of resources and ideas.

## Community Integration Training

During your week-long orientation, the FSD Bolivia site team will help you adapt to the local culture, explore your cultural preconceptions, and expand your knowledge of development.

### Orientation topics include:

- \* Best Practices for Community Engagement
- \* Local Development Issues
- \* Language Training
- \* Safety and Health
- \* Local Belief Systems and Cultural Perspectives

## Development Skill Building

Using an experimental approach, our local site team provide you with the skills needed to sustainably engage project work and to become a development professional.

### On-site trainings address:

- \* Community Mapping and Partnership Building
- \* Local Approaches to Development
- \* Needs Assessment Tools
- \* Grant Proposal Writing
- \* Integrating Sustainability into Project Work
- \* Collaborative Project Design and Management

## Cultural Immersion & Reflection

FSD Bolivia provides a series of immersion and reflection opportunities to help interns see the connections between their efforts and the broader context of international development

### Activities typically include:

- \* Group Service Projects
- \* Adventure Excursions
- \* Local Festivals and Events
- \* Book Discussion Groups
- \* Movie/Documentary Nights
- \* Cultural Comparison Discussions

**microenterprise/microfinance** microcredit\*communitybanking\***business development** \* eco-tourism \* social entrepreneurship **environment/ appropriate technology renewable energy**\*organic/sustainableagriculture \* water supply and treatment \* **green building** \* natural resource management \* **agrochemical/industrial pollution** \* cook stoves \* transportation \* waste management \* education & planning **women's empowerment** advocacy & right \* capacity building \* **women's entrepreneurship** \* violence against women \* building cooperatives **human rights** poverty equality & social justice \* environmental law \* child advocacy \* **mediation & conflict resolution** \* reproductive/property/disability rights \* **legal policy education & youth development** social moral & cognitive development \* **orphanage care** \* sports & extracurricular activities \* **primary & secondary school teaching** \* vocational & life skills training \* **social leadership community development** community empowerment \* **planning & infrastructure building** \* food security \* cultural retention \* tourism \* **media & communications health traditional & conventional medicine** \* health systems & policy \* **social work & mental health** \* *reproductive health & maternity care* \* **nutrition** \* disabilities & physical therapy \* **HIV/AIDS**

FSD BOLIVIA  
[www.fsdbolivia.org](http://www.fsdbolivia.org)  
[info@fsdbolivia.org](mailto:info@fsdbolivia.org)  
Phone (591) (4) (406 4400)  
Cell/WhatsApp (591) 717 36366

Follow us



fsdbolivia