



# Project Bona Fide

## Internships 2015-2016

### Organization Description

Project Bona Fide (PBF), a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization and NGO, is a demonstrative permaculture site and experience-based learning center that utilizes *permaculture design, agroforestry, research & education, and community collaboration* to promote food security on Isla de Ometepe in southwest Nicaragua.

Our vision is to educate and expose people to the possibilities of multi-strata food production through demonstrative agriculture on our 26-acre model farm, Finca Bona Fide. Through our work, we aim to promote food sovereignty locally and regionally not just through feeding one's self and family, but also by nourishing the community and contributing to its local economy.

We are an *experience-based* learning center that believes learning is grasped greatly by doing, and we hope to inspire local partners and peoples from around the world to undertake their education in this manner.

Our approach has 3 key elements:

1. *Demonstrate the possible.* Using permaculture and agroforestry research and design principles, we conduct plant trials on site and demonstrate successful models to the public.
2. *Learn from and educate the interested.* We teach sustainable lifestyle principles to volunteers, interns, student groups, and local community members.
3. *Collaborate with the community.* We support community projects through financial support, knowledge, and technical skills.

## Why intern with Project Bona Fide?

As interns with Project Bona Fide, participants gain invaluable experience working directly with a grassroots organization in the intern's area of interest. Working with Project Bona Fide's staff, interns will receive on-site training and skill-building in a number of key areas of the farm. Interns will have the opportunity to contribute to on-going projects, create their own projects, and collaborate with local community initiatives.

## Project Bona Fide Internship Positions

We offer dynamic internship positions to self-motivated individuals who are eager to expand their knowledge of permaculture design, food security and sustainable living systems. Project Bona Fide depends on the contributions of interns to help maintain our 26-acre permaculture farm, develop new practices, and enrich our shared experience of conscious living.

Interns are asked to commit to a minimum period of **3 months** of living and working on the farm. All interns will be responsible for a specific system/project on the farm and will coordinate their work with the Bona Fide Directors and Program Coordinators.

### Position Requirements:

- Minimum time commitment of 3 months
- Experience living in a communal setting
- Strong work ethic and willingness to learn and share
- Ability to work in a high activity environment
- Intermediate level of Spanish (recommended)
- Basic knowledge of Permaculture principles (recommended)
- Self motivation, strong work ethic, interpersonal skills

### Project Interns are needed in the following areas:

- Appropriate Technology & Alternative Energy
- Natural Building
- Water Systems
- Plant Systems
- Medicinal Garden
- Marketing & Communications

As part of the internship, interns will use a Project Seed Fund of \$300 to develop their own project on the farm or contribute an existing project. Interns are expected to conduct basic project management, which includes fundraising, budgeting, and setting realistic deadlines for their project. They will report directly to the Directors and Coordinators about the status of their project, as well as for material and budgeting needs.

Over the course of the internship, interns will have the opportunity to participate in unique skill-building workshops, collaborate with the local community, and learn from one of the most diverse agroforestry sites in Central America.

## Program Costs

*Project Bona Fide's program fee covers all in-country costs and is 100% tax deductible for U.S. residents.*

3 Months: \$2,470

4 Months: \$3,150

5 Months: \$3,830

6 Months: \$4,510

*If interested in staying 6+ months, please contact the Program Coordinator directly at [probonafide@gmail.com](mailto:probonafide@gmail.com)*

*The program fee covers:*

- 4-day orientation
- Room & board with all meals included
- Weekly Spanish language lessons
- Skill-building workshops and weekly activities
- Midterm retreat
- Ongoing in-country support from PBF site team
- \$300 Project Seed Fund for individual's internship project

Our program fees also contribute directly to the operational costs of the farm and our local staff. For a more detailed breakdown of program costs, please email our Program Coordinator at [probonafide@gmail.com](mailto:probonafide@gmail.com).

*The following are not included by the program fee, but can be arranged at additional cost:*

- Airport pick-up and drop-off
- Medical/travel insurance

*Fund your PBF Experience:*

There are a number of ways to help fund your internship at Project Bona Fide. Below are several suggested crowd-funding sites. For more advice or information on fundraising, please contact our Program Coordinator at [probonafide@gmail.com](mailto:probonafide@gmail.com).

We the Trees:

<http://www.wethetrees.com/>

A crowd-funding platform for raising money for permaculture classes, internships, and projects

Volunteer Forever:

<https://www.volunteerforever.com/>

A crowd-funding platform for raising money for international volunteer opportunities

Indiegogo:

<https://www.indiegogo.com/>

## **Internship Start Dates for 2015-2016**

September 15, 2015

January 15, 2016

June 15, 2016

All internship positions are based in Balgüe, Isla Ometepe, Nicaragua. For more information, please visit our website at <http://projectbonafide.com> to learn more.

## **How to Apply**

If you wish to be considered for an internship position at Project Bona Fide, please send the following application materials to [probonafide@gmail.com](mailto:probonafide@gmail.com):

- Resume
- 1-page cover letter explaining your relevant experience and why you would be a good fit for a Project Bona Fide internship
- 500-word project proposal

Please put the area to which you are applying in the subject line, i.e. "Plant Systems Intern". All applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

We appreciate your interest in joining us and look forward to reading your application!

*Last updated: July 2015*