

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INTERNSHIP

IN NICARAGUA



INTRODUCTION GUIDE



Renewable Energy Development

NICARAGUA

WELCOME!

This Introduction Pack aims to provide you with all the necessary information you will need to help you choose if this is the right project for you, and help you embark on your great adventure! Here you will find information on the country and what to expect when you get there, packing lists, a small survival guide, information on visas, how to find Global Nomadic in the social media world, how to share your experience with other travellers and much, much more. If however, there are still some questions left unanswered when you have finished reading this pack, please do not hesitate to get in touch anytime, we want you to have the best possible experience before, during and after your placement.

Welcome to the Nicaragua and the Glomadic World!
The Global Nomadic Team

www.globalnomadic.com

Tel: UK +44 (0) 207 193 2652

USA +1 (415) 315 9942

AUS +61 (03) 9014 9482



DESTINATION NICARAGUA

Nicaragua, known as the land of lakes and volcanoes, has much to boast about. It has two beautiful coasts, some of the best surfing in the world, and one of the oldest cities in Latin America. And while tourism has increased greatly in this beautiful country and is now the second largest industry, it is still the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Like many of its Latin American neighbours, Nicaragua was conquered by the Spanish in the 16th century and remained under Spanish rule until 1821. The time following independence was however anything but peaceful and in the following century and a half Nicaragua endured occupations, military dictatorships, revolutions, civil wars and natural disasters.

In recent years, as Nicaragua has stabilized and come to be considered one of the safest countries in Latin America, tourism has boomed and millions of people flock to the country every year, attracted by low prices, lush scenery and some of the oldest colonial towns on the continent. There is an abundance of things to do and see in Nicaragua, from coffee plantations to tropical beaches, rain forests and volcanoes. So while Nicaragua might be poor, you will come away rich with experiences!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Few engineering areas hold such astonishing promise as renewable energy. Amid climate change, fuel crises and global warming concerns, the future is looking bright for the sustainable engineering sector. Taking into account that energy derived from the sun is expected to be able to supply humanity for another 1 billion years, it's no wonder more and more funding goes into renewable energy projects. Such projects are also particularly suited for development in rural and remote areas of the planet, as a reliable energy source is key to sustaining human development.

You have now been given the chance to be able to take part in a very hands-on renewable energy here in Nicaragua, which effectively demonstrates just how important the development of renewable energy techniques really are. You will be working with a very dynamic NGO whose mission it is to contribute to the wellbeing of rural communities by offering alternatives to harmful environmental practices and creating an awareness of sustainable lifestyles. The guiding principles of this organisation are community participation, respect for the environment and human dignity.

Previous participants of this careership have worked on projects including battery charger designs, rural PV installations, solar cookers, developing markets for PV and solar thermal, grant writing, project management, computer work/web development, organizational development work, and general administration, recycling, and education. In addition, there are plenty of opportunities to attend meetings, workshops and lectures from residing and visiting professionals. This is a very flexible project, which requires hard work and enthusiasm – and a passion to be a part of a different future.

Further details are available in our Information pack which we can send to you upon request. You will need to read through this before confirming your place.

Location and Arrival

You will be working at the NGO base in Sabana Grande, located in the second poorest municipality in Nicaragua. 80% of the population obtain their only source of income from agriculture. You will need to fly into Managua International Airport, where you will be met and travel to the project locations, located in the north-west, approximately 3.5 hours away from the capital.

Duration

The minimum duration for which you can join this project is two months, however you can stay for up to six months.

Accommodation

The best way to experience a new culture is to live in it fully immersed and what better way to do that than to live with a local family? While you are working on this project you will be living with families who are specially chosen as they are also involved in the project and have a vested interest in its success. You will be given a separate, lockable bedroom with shared bathroom and eat breakfast and dinner with your host family, as well as lunches on Sundays. This is a very unique and authentic way to live and experience true Nicaraguan life. You will be well taken care of by our co-ordinators and your host family.

Requirements

The minimum age to participate is 18 years. As very few of the local community speak English, it is also very important that you can demonstrate a working knowledge of the Spanish language in order to take part in this project. If you would like to brush up on your skills before you join, we can arrange for intensive lessons elsewhere in Nicaragua immediately prior to your placement. While you are at the project, please try to speak Spanish as much as possible, even if you are working together with other English-speaking volunteers. This is considered polite and your efforts will be appreciated.

Fees And Where They Go

Project Fee (\$600 1st month + \$450 p/m) includes 2 meals a day (breakfast and dinner), homestay accommodation, in-country support, project activities and transport from Managua to the project location.

We charge a flat, one-off **Placement Fee** of £349 GBP /\$530 USD per person per project (included in the total fee). This covers our costs for promoting the project and providing our services. We offer full pre-departure support (for all necessary flights, visas and vaccinations) and ongoing assistance throughout your placement. We charge a small processing fee, which is deducted from this placement fee once you have been accepted.

	\$ USD	£ GBP **
Total Fees for 1st month*	\$1130	£745
Additional months	\$450	£300

* Includes both Project and Placement Fees

** Currency conversions are approximate.

We also offer additional 24/7 **Emergency Support** for an extra fee - £195 / \$300. You will have access to an emergency phone number and priority support throughout your placement.

Other Costs To Think About

Besides the Fees mentioned above, you also need to budget for your flights, visas (if applicable), vaccinations and insurance. We are happy to help you arrange all of these and make sure you have everything you need! You should budget around \$5 per day for lunch.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE TRAVELLING TO NICARAGUA

Insurance

A full travel and medical insurance is mandatory for the project in Nicaragua. We recommend using World Nomads. They offer comprehensive and affordable insurance policies, you can get a free and instant quote from their website.

Visas

Visitors from most countries can visit Nicaragua without obtaining a visa, however, entry into Nicaragua may be refused and airlines may not carry you if you hold a passport with less than six months validity or do not have an onward ticket out of Nicaragua. On arrival you will be given a visit permit valid for 90 days, costing \$10 USD. If you need to stay longer than 90 days, you can either renew your permit or leave Nicaragua and come back, which will give you another 90 days stay.

Vaccinations

The vaccinations below are recommended for Nicaragua, however you should check now with your doctor or local travel clinic, as they will have the most up to date information, and be able to organise any necessary injections based on your prior history.

- * Hepatitis A
- * Hepatitis B
- * Diphtheria
- * Yellow Fever (certificate required upon entry if arriving from an infected area, such as Brazil or West Africa)
- * Typhoid
- * Malaria

Money Matters

The currency used in Nicaragua is the Cordoba (C\$). The American Dollar, either in cash or travellers' cheques, is the only foreign currency, which is freely exchangeable in Nicaragua. Banks do not exchange sterling. Avoid using street moneychangers, as there have been reports of assaults on people exchanging money in the streets. ATM's are widely available in most major towns and cities. VISA is the most commonly accepted credit card, sometimes travellers have experienced issues using MasterCard. We recommend having at least \$50 in small bills hidden around your luggage in case of emergency.

Climate

Sabana Grande is located in an area of Nicaragua, which has the lowest precipitation in the country. The climate is that of the tropical savannah, meaning it is dry and hot most of the year. Temperature ranges between 20 and 30 °C (68 to 86°F).

Things you should definitely bring:

- Head torch/ flashlight
- One or more towels (quick dry towels help)
- Quick-drying and breathable clothes
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Sunscreen + sunhat + sunglasses
- Daypack
- Toiletry items
- Basic medical kit (plasters / band aids, pain killers, anti itch cream)
- Trekking shoes
- Flip-flops or sandals

Things that might come in useful:

- Books to read and/or other forms of entertainment
- English-Spanish dictionary
- Sleeping bag (if you are going trekking in your free time)
- Mosquito net



Camera
Laptop
Watch with alarm

JOIN THE GLOMADIC WORLD ONLINE!

Social networking sites are great for keeping in touch with friends and family while you are abroad, but they are also great for finding inspiration and creating a sense of feel for where you are going. Check out and like the Global Nomadic Facebook for weekly updates from the Global Nomadic team, shout out to us on Twitter and Instagram using the #Glomadic hash tag. We guarantee that you will want to capture the awesomeness of your project on camera!

You can also use these channels, as well as our Pinterest, Flickr and YouTube channels to find and connect with past, present and future Glomadic interns to see what they have been up to around the globe.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Once you have confirmed your place, you will be invited to become an author on our blog (www.globalnomadic.com/blog), where you can share the experience of your placement with friends, family, future employers and the world in general.

FUNDRAISING

We know that raising the funds for your trip can be tough, so in addition to our Ambassador programme (see below) we have put together a detailed info pack stuffed with links, resources and ideas to help you afford your trip. As a Global Nomadic Intern you can use our Crowdfunding Platform and keep 100% of all raised funds.

Drop us an email and we will send over more details!

w: www.GlobalNomadic.com e: info@globalnomadic.com t: +44 (0) 207 193 2652 / +1 (415) 315 9942

BECOME A GLOMADIC AMBASSADOR

If you are able to do any of the following, then we will waive our Placement Fee for you;

- Get 3 friends to book any placement with us
- Lead a group trip (3+ participants) to any of our projects

We will offer a £100 discount on the placement fee if you can;

- Put up 100 posters around your university campus (with permission from your university)
- Attend a career fair at your university or school - after you have been on a placement with us.

Discuss with us if you have any other ideas for how to spread the word and reduce the cost of your trip!

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to help!

