

Bridge DC: Justice, Faith, Relational Ministry & Neighboring Internship with MidAtlantic InterVarsity

What is Bridge DC? Bridge DC is a 7 week internship program for students to deepen their faith in Jesus and engage spiritual disciplines of justice and service. The program takes place in Chirilagua, a Central American neighborhood in Alexandria Virginia

Dates for 2024: June 18th - August 1st

Program Components

-Theological formation for Justice and Shalom: Bible studies and reflections focused on building a Christian theology and practice for justice work. Each student will also have weekly mentorship meetings (mentor usually matched by career/major and ethnic background).

-Direct Service based Internship: 15 hour/week internship in a local non-profit setting. Typically includes working with our core partner, Casa Chirilagua, as well as partners that connect with the students' major or vocational direction.

-Neighborhood Incarnational Ministry: guided neighboring and relational ministry in the Chirilagua community alongside InterVarsity team members.

-Local Church Worship: Attending and appreciating a local congregation in its witness.

-Team relationships and bonding: students live and grow deeper together, challenging and encouraging each other as they minister to the community. team size has varied from 3-12 students. Our ideal team size is 4-8 students from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Internship Opportunities

Examples placements from previous programs: *to ensure a placement, please apply to the program by Feb 1st of the year you desire to attend*

-Casa Chirilagua: great placement for interest in nonprofit management, accounting, social work, education, youth development, social sciences, international development

-Neighborhood Health: local clinic serving underinsured persons (requires 30 hours of prework before Bridge)

-Shirlington Education and Employment Center: supporting recent immigrants in seeking jobs and job skills to better their lives (spanish required)

-YearUp: Teaching young people computer science skills for entry level tech jobs

-GRID Alternatives Mid Atlantic: solar panel engineering firm for low income residents As interns, students will serve in a support function to increase the organization's capacity.

Cost: \$3,500. Students will support-raise this amount using a coached-team model. This model requires all participating students to request financial support from people in their network. Students will receive a coach, tasks and benchmarks to reach their goal. We've used this system nearly 10 years, and every student who's participated in the support-raising efforts as required has been able to come to the program. Students can also elect to raise a stipend to have money to take home after the program if needed.

The money covers the cost of housing (nearly 75% of the total), food, transportation and supplies for the duration of the program.

For more information, contact Kate Denson kate.denson@intervarsity.org

Technology Fast: During Bridge DC we fast from technology to be more available to God and one another. This includes limiting texting, phone and computer use to Tuesday evenings. The team will have a group tracfone with texting and call service for emergency or coordinating use. Some internships will require internet use so students are encouraged to bring phones and computers for the service internship.

A week in the life: *a sample schedule for a week at Bridge DC, exact service internship times Mondays--Fridays will vary based on placement and any particularities for that year.*

Note: the first and final weeks of the program are orientation and debrief weeks– we spend these weeks doing team building and theological formation and do not do our service internships. During the central portion of the program the service internship takes place.

Doesn't include daily quiet times, meals and free time.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church 1130-130pm	Mentor mtg, 9-10	Service Internship at Casa or other org, 10-2pm	Service Internship at Casa or other org, 10-2pm	Service Internship at Casa or other org, 10-2pm	Casa Chirilagua service day, whole team 11-3pm	Team training day, field trips, neighborhood activities, etc. 10am-6pm
3-5pm Bible study	Casa Chirilagua service day, whole team 2-5pm	One on one with director or outside speaker 4-6pm		Team Chores (groceries, laundry, etc.)		
7-9pm Neighborhood time	7-9pm Neighborhood time	7-10pm Technology time	7-9pm Neighborhood time	7-9pm Worship night in DC	7-9pm Neighborhood time	7-9pm Neighborhood time

FAQ:

Q: Is attendance at DC plunge required prior to attending Bridge DC?

A: Yes, Plunge is a helpful way to get a “taste” of Bridge DC and for the student and director to make an informed decision about summer participation.

Q: Will I get my requested internship site?

A: Hopefully! There are many factors like the nonprofits availability and team considerations that go into internship placement. The earlier you apply the more likely we can find a placement for you that fits your major or career interests. Everyone will also serve with Casa Chirilagua.

Q: Is the technology fast required? What if I have concerns about that?

A: Yes, it is a key part of the summer to make ourselves available to God and one another in a sustainable way. If you have particular concerns or needs please discuss with the director prior to accepting a spot on the Bridge DC team.

Q: Can I work another job/go on a vacation/do a summer class alongside Bridge DC?

A: No, for the duration of the program outside of Tuesday evenings, you should expect Bridge DC to be a 24/7 commitment.

Q: Who should apply?

A: Ideal candidates are rising sophomores-seniors, leaders in their IV chapters eager to grow in seeing their faith shape their current and future reality. Recent grads are welcome to apply.

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