Lasallian Service Internship 2014

International Site

Location: Po Thum, Cambodia

La Salle Educational Center
Mailing Address: No. 172 St. 27, BTP
Phnom Penh
Kingdom of Cambodia

La Salle Educational Center was created to provide educational opportunities for the poor and marginalized in the village of Po Thum and the surrounding areas. The Christian Brothers have a long history in Cambodia, originally arriving in 1906. However, they were forced to flee in 1972 due to the volatile political situation, and have only recently returned to continue their mission to educate the poor. They continue to respond to the needs of the local community, including providing housing for children from rural areas so they are able to live nearby and can attend school.

Phone: 097 545 5387 (Br. Sokly)

Website: None

Site Director: Br. Tang Sokly

LSI Contact: Br. Tang Sokly
congoanductin@yahoo.com
097 545 5387

Supervisor: Students will be supervised by Br. Sokly. Students will not have a Saint Mary’s College supervisor for their month of service in Cambodia.

# Of Students: 2-4

Service Work:
Students may teach English and Math to kindergarten students during regular school hours; Tutor English and Math for elementary and high school students in the afternoon; Engage in sports activities; Build houses for the poor.
QUALIFICATIONS OR SKILLS REQUESTED:
Students will work with children, and therefore will need to have a background check.

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF COURSE: $1869
- $185.00 – Materials fee (includes $35 insurance fee)
- $1244.00 – Airfare
- $100.00 – Room and Board
- $220.00 – Cultural Events and Trips w/ Transportation
- $20.00 – Visa
- $100 – Estimate of exchange rate fee
- [Passport costs – dependent on if student already has passport – approx. $110]

VISA/PASSPORT:
- A valid passport is required
- A valid visa is required

VACCINATIONS:
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that travelers to any foreign country are up to date on their routine vaccinations. These include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

In addition, travelers to Cambodia are advised by the CDC to get the following vaccines because there is a risk of these diseases:
- Hepatitis A - CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Cambodia, regardless of where you are eating or staying.
- Typhoid - You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in Cambodia. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.

Complete information can be found on the CDC’s “Health Information for Travelers to Cambodia” webpage that can be found at:

In addition, please consult your personal physician regarding any additional steps you should take to protect your health.
LASALLIAN SERVICE INTERNSHIP
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ACCOMMODATIONS:
Students will stay in the Brothers’ house, where there are 2 Brothers. There is no air-conditioning needed as the house is in an open field. Each room has one queen size bed with mosquito net and fan, bathroom with shower and western style toilet.

RISKS/EMERGENCIES:
It is advised that students visit https://travelregistration.state.gov and register with the State Department. In this way, they will be kept informed and updated by the US Government concerning Cambodia at the time of their travel. Cambodia is generally safe, and Po Thum enjoys this peace, too. In case of extreme emergency, the best way is to fly them to Bangkok for treatment and then back to the USA as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION:
Wireless Internet is available

COURSE WORKLOAD:
- Requirements as listed on the syllabus.
- Includes four required 2-hour seminars and possible additional meeting for further information on this particular location.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS
Students must respect the following guidelines:
- Due to the fact that there will be no Saint Mary’s College supervisor present, a high level of maturity and independence is expected
- Dress decently; Cambodia is a very devout country, and people are not accustomed to revealing clothing
- No liquor, smoking, or drugs
- Drinking beer in moderation with dinner may be acceptable if student is of age
- Do not go anywhere along
- Respect curfew: approximately 11pm – 5am (Exact times and other guidelines will be discussed upon arrival)

CULTURAL AWARENESS:
The following is from the Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia

DOs and DON´Ts in Cambodia
People in Cambodia are well known for their hospitality and warmth. Out of respect, visitors to the Kingdom should take care to observe local customs and practices. You may find it useful to
familiarize yourself with the following common dos and don'ts before embarking on your trip to Cambodia.

DOs in Cambodia
- Ask for permission before taking photographs of any Cambodian people or monks
- It is customary to remove your shoes when entering a place of worship such as a pagoda or temple. Additionally, visitors should dress appropriately when inside a religious site (upper arms and legs should be covered, hats removed)
- It is respectful to remove your shoes when entering someone’s home
- Though not always expected, a respectful way of greeting another individual is to bow the head slightly with hands pressed together at the chest (known as “Sampeah”)
- If invited to dine in a Cambodian family’s home, it is polite to bring a small gift for the host such as fruit, dessert, or flowers
- If invited to attend a Cambodian wedding, it is customary to bring cash as a wedding gift
- When using a toothpick at the table, use one hand to cover your mouth
- Keep business cards ready, and present them with both hands. Accept business cards with both hands

DON'Ts in Cambodia
- Don't use your feet to point at someone
- Don't touch a Cambodian person on the head
- Don't begin eating if you are a guest at a dinner and the host has yet to take a bite
- Women should never touch male monks or hand something directly to them
- Keep public displays of affection to a respectful minimum
- Do not litter; keep our community clean and safe
- Plastic bags can be hazardous; dispose them properly

FOOD: The main food is rice. The cook is not an international chef; she does not know how to cook American Food nor Kosher, etc. The cook can prepare vegetarian or vegan or gluten-free diet, if there is a need and the student is willing to teach her how to do this. One weekend the students can go to downtown Phnom Penh for Western food if they are interested.