

Interning with Chaska

If you are interested in interning at Chaska, please email chaska.cusco@gmail.com with your desired position, resume, and cover letter. This document will describe intern positions and support.

Psychology Interns

At Chaska we work with young girls (ages 12 to 15) that attend public high schools. These girls are identified through a test called the High School Personality Questionnaire and selected based on three main factors of character: emotional stability, conscientiousness, and openness to experience. They mostly come from extremely poor single parent families that often have very troubling dynamics. Responsibilities for psychology interns could include:

- Work directly with our lead psychologist and program director
- Work with high school girls ages 12 to 15 who come from extremely poor families
- Conduct psychological evaluations of individual girls and advise on potential treatment
- Follow up with the girls' progress
- Work with the families on education-related issues
- Participate in yearly intake procedure; test and analyze thousands of individuals with High School Personality Questionnaire
- Help conduct socioeconomic status assessments of families
- Develop or find character-based psychological tests applicable for primary school children in order to expand the Chaska program

Social Work Interns

The Chaska girls come from severely impoverished families, and their parents often have minimal education and negative livelihoods. Most of our girls live with their entire family in one or two room apartments, many of which lack basic infrastructure. Many of the fathers are absent and the mothers have to work to survive on a day to day basis. Responsibilities for social work interns could include:

- Work directly with our lead psychologist and program director
- Organize and execute workshops on parenting
- Work directly with the severely impoverished families of the Chaska girls on things related to:
 - Health and hygiene
 - Money management
 - Stability and Security

Teachers

Schools in Cusco are not typically known for having great reputations, and we have found that the public schools that the Chaska girls attend have one main focus: finishing the curriculum. Everything they teach is based on memorization through a copy-paste style, and no one learns critical thinking or problem solving. There are no resources for students when they fall behind, and they often will fall so far behind that they can't obtain a higher education even if they want to. Many of the poorer children are also permanently pulled out of school by their parents to begin contributing to the family income. In Chaska, we provide the girls with additional classes in many different fields including STEM, English, Health, and more. Every class is designed to teach them to think critically and ask why. Responsibilities for teachers could include:

- Work directly with the program director
- Develop classes that will help certain girls catch up on certain subjects or maximize their talents and passions
- Teach classes to small groups of four girls or less
- Teach the girls to think critically
- Conduct individual assessments and progress reports

Marketing and Fundraising Intern

Chaska depends on charitable contributions and donations to cover their yearly expenses. There is an organization based in Oregon called Chaska USA that has 501(c)(3) status and a board of directors. Responsibilities for the marketing and fundraising intern could include:

- Work directly with the Chaska USA board members and the program director
- Develop marketing and communication plans towards the US
- Implement various fundraising strategies
- Website design
- Communicate with various donors
- Help make strategic decisions regarding budget, programs, and more

Support

Official organization: Asociación Civil sin Fines de Lucro FairServices

Focus: Chaska Project

Location: Cusco, Peru

Address: Pasaje Zavaleta C-5, Wanchaq, Cusco, Peru

Duration: Typically 8-12 weeks, but flexible in both directions

Accommodation: Homestay, volunteer house, or independent

Services:

- Pickup from airport
- Personalized orientation
- Weekly progress meetings
- 24/7 health and emergency support