



FLCA@Home and Away: Storytelling

San Felipe Chenla and Ojo de Agua, Guatemala

In-country – October 2024

Virtual – February 2025

Application deadline: May 17, 2024

Project description:

This project will connect you to Indigenous and traditional communities in Guatemala to learn, interact, and exchange knowledge and skills and develop a foundation for reconciliation at home. You will work with local Mayan youth to help create and tell stories about Indigenous rights in Canada, in Guatemala and around the world, while building the cross-cultural skills needed as a global citizen and as a professional. The program will host a final showcase at the end of the winter semester, featuring stories co-created by DC students and students in Guatemala. This project is open to all Media, Art and Design students.

Program/learning highlights:

- Visit local high schools to mentor Mayan youth
- Co-create stories using podcasts, photo essays, video stories or other mediums
- Co-create trailers, news releases and accessible social media posts to share the stories

Students will travel to Guatemala in person during the Fall Reading week, then participate in five 1.5-hour workshops during the Winter Reading week. During these sessions, MAD students will connect over Zoom with high school students in Guatemala (with the assistance of a translator) to act as mentors.

Dates:

In-country – Oct. 19 - 27 (Fall Reading Week)

Virtual – Feb. 24 - 28 (Winter Reading Week)

*Note: In-country dates may vary slightly depending on availability of flights.

Cultural highlights:

- You will be fully immersed in the rural Mayan community of San Felipe with a visit to the village of Ojo de Agua as well

Timeline:

- Application deadline: May 17 by 11:59 p.m. (see application information below)
- Applicant selection: end of May; successful candidates will be notified by the first week of June
- Team meeting: mid-June
- Initial deposit: \$500 non-refundable deposit due by the team meeting in June.

Location:

San Felipe Chenlá and Ojo de Agua, Guatemala

Partner:

Students Offering Support (a Canadian registered charity) - <https://studentsofferingsupport.org/>

Language:

English, Spanish (translators available)

Accommodation and meals:

Students will sleep on cots in classrooms inside a local school. Students have access to showers and flush toilets. Meals will be provided by local community members in partnership with Students Offering Support. Vegan meals can be provided and other dietary restrictions will be accommodated as best as possible.

Student Support:

DC students will be supported by DC faculty and International Education Office staff. Two faculty members from Faculty of Media, Art and Design will accompany the successful candidates to Guatemala.

Visa and Passports:

Canadian students are not required to apply for a tourist visa for Guatemala. Passports must be valid for six months after the return date. You must provide a copy of your passport by the team meeting in June. Students that do not hold Canadian Passports may be required to secure a visa at their own expense. [Information is available here](#). Be aware that flights may connect through countries other than Canada and Guatemala, including the United States.

Risks:

It is the student's responsibility to consider the potential risks of any travel. For more information on travel risks in Guatemala, visit the Canadian government's [travel advisory page here](#).

Academics:

Students will be required to submit course work related to this FLCA experience. Faculty will advise of those assignments prior to travel.

Things to know:

- Students must attend pre-departure training.
- Students must follow the DC Student Code of Conduct throughout the duration of the program.
- Students are responsible for all associated pre-departure medical requirements, including vaccinations.

Program costs:

This program is primarily funded by Global Skills Opportunity. Costs funded by GSO include:

- Flights – Approximately \$1,500
- Program fees (including most meals, accommodations, cultural excursions, local transportation) – Approximately \$2850
- Emergency travel and risk insurance – Approximately \$160
- Airport transportation – Approximately \$100
- Travel bursary (to be distributed close to the travel dates) - \$200
- Other costs, including other components of pre-departure training meetings

Students will be responsible for some costs, such as some meals, shopping, souvenirs, etc. (approximately \$300 - \$600)

Selected students must also pay a non-refundable fee of \$500 upon acceptance.

Application Information**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Open to all students in the Faculty of Media, Art and Design
- Must have good academic standing and record of attendance.
- Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 (GPA will be confirmed prior to travel)
- Students must have no records with Campus Safety

Student interviews will be conducted at the end of May with applicants chosen by the first week of June.

How to apply:

Please apply via the Faculty-led Classroom Abroad Application –

<https://durhamcollege.ca/forms/flcahome-and-away-storytelling-2024-25>

For more information, contact Jennifer Bedford – jennifer.bedford@durhamcollege.ca or Danielle Harder – danielle.harder@durhamcollege.ca