

SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS

We'd like to hear about your life experience. Your candid answers to the following prompts will help both you and our staff examine your readiness to make the commitment to this experience. Please explain your answers in terms of specific experiences in your life. There is no need to write long answers. For some questions, a few sentences is sufficient. Otherwise, a short paragraph is fine. Questions should be in **bold** and responses should be in plain text.

1. **What stage of life are you in right now? (Where are you coming from? Where are you going?)**
2. **Why do you want to participate in this internship program?**
3. **Have you been to Ecuador or Latin America? If not, what kind of experience do you have in developing countries?**
4. **Do you have any experience living in community? That is, living closely with other people. How would you describe your interpersonal style (how do you interact with other people)?**
5. **What do you see as specific challenges to this type of experience?**
6. **After you finish the intern program, how do you plan to apply the skills/perspective you have gained from your experience?**
7. **What's your favorite animal or comic book character and why?**
8. **What kind of ecological or permaculture experience or education do you have, in any?**
9. **Have you ever grown your own food before? Foraged?**
10. **What kind of experience do you have in the wilderness (especially tropical or non-tropical forests)? How would you describe your tolerance to different levels of comfort (non-city comfort)?**
11. **How would you describe your physical fitness?**
12. **Personal projects in the reserve fall into a few broad categories: reforestation; flora & fauna research (incl. organic pest management); food production; and appropriate technology design/implementation. *Which category/categories are you most interested in and why?***
13. **Personal projects usually come about one of two ways: either we propose them to applicants, or applicants apply with something in mind that they propose to us. Do you have some specific project or projects that you are interested in developing? (If so, please note whether you would be interested in another project, in the event that your proposal doesn't fit our needs right now.)**
14. **Do you have any advanced or technical skills? Please note anything that may be remotely related (e.g. GIS mapping, arborist/pruning experience, construction/engineering, etc. etc. etc.)**