

**The Science  Exchange
Intercambios Científicos**

**Baja California Sea Turtle Internship Forms and Information
2008**

Congratulations on becoming an intern for this important program to help save endangered species in an exciting learning environment!

Important deadlines

ASAP - Investigate scholarships (www.sa.sdsu.edu/isc/finaid.htm) for study abroad.

ASAP - If you plan to request financial aid for summer 2008 complete your FAFSA form for 2008-2009. Afterwards, complete online Summer Counseling, accessed via AidLink.

April 26 - SDSU study abroad orientation 8:30am-1:00pm Location: Exercise and Nutrition 280. Breakfast provided.

May 1- if needed, last day to apply for a passport without rush service

May 15 - application, all signed forms, and \$500 deposit due

before June 15 - Full payment and orientation with The Science Exchange

April 28- Register for Summer Session (if 6 units)

May 23- Register for extended Studies (if 3 units)

July 1- travel to site

July 15 - Pay for fall semester tuition

August 1- last day to request a financial aid budget increase due to expenses incurred during summer enrollment

August 20 - email draft of paper to katherine@thescienceexchange.org

August 28 - financial aid disbursed for fall 2008

August 29 - last day to pay and register for classes.

September 2 - fall classes start- return to U.S. and debrief with The Science Exchange.

Passport/Proof of Residency

You must obtain a passport, if you do not already have one, which is valid through the period of travel. Applications and instructions are available on line at <http://travel.state.gov/passport/index.html>, or at designated branches of the U.S. Postal Service. You must have a passport by your departure date, so begin this process immediately! Most passports are valid for 10 years. You must also have a travel visa, which can be purchased at the airport before departure or at the border if you are driving.

Medical Disclosure

You must complete the attached form in its entirety. Information provided on this form will not disqualify you for participation, as long as your physician clears you for this trip. However, you must completely disclose any medical conditions, medications, or other limitations to the faculty supervisor so that your situation can be properly accommodated. Check with your doctor and/or the Mexican Consulate regarding recommended immunizations if you have questions. Assumption of Risk/Waiver of Liability Read carefully. Your signature denotes your full understanding of the impact of this document. If you are under 21, your parents must sign. Studying outside the US carries risks not normally associated with on-campus studies. You the student must assume the risks and responsibility for keeping yourself safe and healthy.

Weather and Gear

Be prepared for various weather conditions with appropriate clothing (shorts, jeans, sweatshirts, t-shirts, windbreakers, etc. are all recommended). Bring swim gear and snorkeling gear, beach towel, and bath towel. Boogie boards or surfboards can be taken on the plane for an additional charge. Pack all your medications for the trip, and bring the prescriptions. Pack binoculars, camera, GPS, boots, sandals, water-proof watch, condoms, bug repellent, toiletries, international calling card, sun block, hat, emergency money (traveler's checks), money belt, credit cards, driver's license, and passport. Bring a Spanish English dictionary and your packet of articles. Bring paper to keep your journal and take notes. Waterproof notebooks and pens for the field are advisable. Make photocopies of your passport, plane tickets, visa, and credit cards and keep them separate from your money. You may bring laptop computers, although you will have access to computers at the camps and the internet (if available) at the camps or when you are in town at internet cafes. Do not bring valuable jewelry. It is advisable to purchase renters insurance and/or travel insurance for your items of value. Gifts for your mentors and campmates are always a big hit.

Diving Certification

Be sure to take your PADI card with you if you plan to dive. If you want to get certified before you go, contact Katherine. You assume all risk when diving.

Communication

Important phone numbers:

- If you need to give a contact phone number to someone in the US to reach you in case of emergency you may use the phone number for the camp or host family where you will be staying. The Science Exchange will provide you with these numbers (write them in here)_____

Long Distance Calls to Mexico

- From the U.S. or Canada: 011 + 52 + city code + local number. To dial a Mexican cell phone from outside Mexico, dial 011+ 52 + **1** + city code + local number (omit the "044" which often prefixes a cellphone number)
- In addition, anyone may call The Science Exchange Exec. Director, Katherine Santos 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
619-519-9876
Toll Free from USA 1-877-519-9876
Toll Free from Mexico 01800-681-1543 (may require one peso with a Mexican calling card from a payphone)
info@thescienceexchange.org
- United States of America Consular Agency - Mr. Michael J. Houston,
Consular Agent, Boulevard Marina, Local C-4, Plaza Nautica, Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Telephone: (624) 143-3566 | Fax: (624) 143-6750 | E-mail: usconsulcabo@yahoo.com

Internet is available at some of the camps sometimes. Twice a week you may go to town to an internet café.

You may add the international roaming to your existing cell phone plan through your carrier or purchase or rent an international phone through STA. The cheapest option is to use an unlocked international GSM mobile phone and purchase a Mexican SIM card from STA. Then you recharge the minutes with phone cards (<http://www.statravelus.ekit.com/ekit/MobileInfo/Service/mexico>).

In town, phone cards can be purchased to make outgoing calls at payphones.

Long Distance Calls from Mexico

To a Mexican telephone number: 01 + city code + local number. To dial a Mexican cell phone in the same city, put 044 before the number. To dial a cell phone in another Mexican city, put 045 before the cell number.

To the U.S. or Canada: 001 + area code + local number

To other countries: 00 + country code + city code + local number

To a cell phone in Mexico: 045 + area code + local number

Operated-assisted calls in Mexico: 020

Operated-assisted calls to other countries: 090

It may be possible to place your call through your long distance carrier by dialing one of the toll-free numbers below. You will be charged at their rate plus an additional surcharge of \$2 or more. This may not be the most economical method; check with your telephone company before leaving home:

AT&T 001-800-462-4240
MCI 001-800-674-7000
Sprint 001-800-877-8000

Health

Montezumas revenge...

Even for the hardened traveler, gastro intestinal upset in Mexico is common. Drink only bottled or purified water. If there is any doubt in your mind, do not hesitate to ask for purified ice and water "Agua Purificada" or bottled water. We recommend not eating raw vegetables like salads or street food. If you experience diarrhea, rehydrate yourself with water and electrolytes like Gatorade or Pedialyte available at pharmacies (farmacias). Make sure to tell Katherine or your mentor if symptoms persist so we can take you to a doctor.

Security

Do not walk alone at night. Even men are targets. Strategies for the avoidance of confrontation will be covered in The Science Exchange orientation. Make sure your valuables are locked up at all times when you are not using them. In town, do not take your eyes off your belongings. Do not hitchhike. Do not ride on motorcycles. Do not use drugs. Do not use alcohol in excess. If you follow these rules you will have a wonderful experience.

Personal Conduct

Read and sign the attached form. Please remember that although there are no U.S. professors or The Science Exchange staff in the field supervising you, your mentor is equivalent to that of a U.S. professor for the purpose of this internship and will be evaluating your performance. If for some reason you should have any issues with your mentor be sure to discuss these with Katherine so she can help resolve the issue or transfer you if needed.

Fall classes

Don't miss important deadlines!

Before the fall semester deadline (around August 15th) pay your fall registration fees at

<https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashnetc/selfserve/ebilllogin.aspx?client=SDSUPROD&>. It may take up to two weeks to process payment.

By August 29th access the schedule of classes over the internet at <http://www.sdsu.edu/schedule.html> and register via Regline (619) 594-7800 or via <https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/portal/>.

Upon receipt of the draft paper on August 20th, Katherine will obtain the add codes for you 499 classes from the departments.