

El Salvador Student Participation Projects



Guidelines for Leaders and Participants

Attachment A – Example Proposal Letter

ESAG 101

Preface

This document is a set of suggestions and guidelines for the El Salvador Project Team (“Team”) from the El Salvador Alumni Group (“Group”), based on the Group’s experience; both in El Salvador and within the working environment. It is not a comprehensive list of rules and does not represent the Group taking responsibility for the Team.

The most important thing for the Team is that the individuals all have an awareness of the risks that exist, and they all realise they are responsible for their own health, safety, and security, no-one else. During the preparations effort should be put in to educating the less experienced members of the team as much as possible, as well as ensuring they appreciate they are responsible for themselves. It is also important to emphasise that individuals who go on to take risks not only risk themselves but also the success of the project as a whole, as such participants are requested to bear this in mind when making decisions.

Use of this document

This document is free to use by all those interested in the El Salvador project. In addition anyone who wishes to use this document in similar projects is free to do so, with the provision that they understand as stated above that this document does not form any official recommendations and as such the authors take no responsibility to damage to property or person as a result of using this document.

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Versions

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1.0	01 March 2007	First Version

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Student Participation Project- El Salvador 2003

To whom it may concern,

I am a second year undergraduate from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Imperial College London. I was a member of a team of ten students who went to El Salvador last year and worked on a project in a small town called Estanzuelas. The project involved constructing a seismically resistant adobe model house. The project was a tremendous success and has led to the development of a project for this year. Further details of last years project can be found at the Expedition El Salvador Website.

http://www.cv.ic.ac.uk/el_salvador/index.html

I am currently seeking sponsorship for a group of six students from my department to undertake a project in El Salvador for six weeks in July and August of this year. Full details of the project are enclosed.

We estimate the cost of the project to come to approximately £1100 per head of which the students will contribute £300. We are seeking to raise the remaining £4800.

A full report will be sent out to all sponsors on completion and published on a website, including a list of sponsors. The trip will also be publicised both within the college itself and in the local (London) media. Sponsorship would be an excellent opportunity to meet and recruit some of the brightest and most motivated civil engineering students at one of the top British universities. Talks will be given within the college, at the Institute of Civil Engineers and also at the request of any sponsors.

We very much hope that you will be able to help us to reach our total. Any contribution would be welcome. We would be very happy to discuss the project and its progress at any time, and my contact details are given below. Thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to give,

Yours faithfully,

Paul Astle

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Project Details

A Non Government Organisation based in El Salvador called REDES is undertaking the project. Students from Imperial College and the University of Liverpool will be assisting REDES for a period of five weeks over the summer of 2003.

REDES

REDES was formed in September 1989 to work with refugees and displaced people resulting from the civil war. REDES provided the displaced people with vocational training in agriculture and fisheries and to support in the legalization of properties in areas affected by the armed conflict. REDES have developed to work in the areas of farm development, social infrastructure and housing, risk management, micro credit schemes, social development projects, diversity development and social development in health, education, women's issues, social security and municipal planning.

REDES presently works with several educational institutions, nationally and internationally involving students in development projects with students from the Social Sciences, Sociology, Engineering, Architecture. REDES work with the universities and provide experienced personnel to accompany and to work with the students on live projects.

When?

Proposed dates are from the 30th June to the 3rd August.

Where?

A small village called Costa Rica in the municipality of San Emigdio, located on the western edge of lake Ilopango.

Objectives

REDES has identified several projects for priority intervention, these are the projects that we will be helping REDES with over summer period.

- The repairs of the road to provide secure transport to the community. This project will include road widening of narrow bends, repairs of retaining walls, surface water drainage and protection and conservation of embankments by planting local vegetation. The main road bend works is subject to discussions with the Mayor of the municipality, but REDES are planning other protection works including planting of specific grass and trees to stabilise embankments
- The repair and or reconstruction of a new school for the community. Dependant on the findings of a structural report this will probably be the construction of new retaining walls, entrance steps, road repairs, repairs to existing retaining walls and school repairs or the construction of a new school on an alternative site. This work is subject to an agreement with the Department of Education of El Salvador.
- Construction of retaining walls to protect the new church building and the temporary school building. This will also include conservation works to the surrounding areas by planting local vegetation. This may not be funded at present.
- Sanitation project constructing 40 latrines, environmental and health promotion.
- The construction of seismically resistant model house.

Support for the Project: Advisors to our project include:

El Salvador:

Walter Navarrete

Head of the Programme Development and Management Unit at REDES

Melvin Tebbutt MBE

Emergency relief and development engineer with extensive experience in emergency relief, development and reconstruction projects in El Salvador, Caribbean and Africa

United Kingdom:

Professor D Nethercot

Head of Department
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Imperial College

Sarah Penny

Deputy Director, School Of Combined Honours SES, University of Liverpool

Dr Julian Bommer

Senior Tutor and Senior Lecturer in Engineering Seismology at Imperial College with extensive experience in El Salvador

Beneficiaries

The students will gain a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience of the challenges of engineering construction and management in a developing country. This unique experience will provide the students with the opportunity to put theory into practice while working with the community and REDES on reconstruction projects that form part of a sustainable development plan. The students will practice and consolidate teamwork, communication, and management and diplomacy skills through working and living with the people of the community of Costa Rica.

The Salvadoran Community of Costa Rica will gain six intelligent and motivated volunteers who will contribute their time, energy and skills to assist in the reconstruction and development of the community. The students will work on infrastructure and development projects to repair and maintain access, improve sanitation facilities, construct retaining walls and repair access to the public school and construct a seismically resistant model house.

Sponsors will gain the opportunity for publicity both within college and the media, and the chance to interact with the student population. A full report will be made on completion of the project which will be sent to all sponsors and published on a website (including a full list of sponsors). Talks will be given in college, at the ICE and at the request of any sponsors.

Budget

Cost per person of transport and accommodation

Return Flights (From STA Travel)

£750 (inc TAX)

Insurance

Covered by College policy

Cost of living (Lonely Planet 'budget living'
estimate of £10/day)

£350

We will be living with families in the community of Costa Rica and as such we are budgeting a cost per head of £1100. The students involved are due to pay a £300 contribution. We are seeking to raise the rest of the money from trust funds with a stated interest in education, travel or engineering, College trust funds and the top consultants and contractors in Civil Engineering.

Cost of project itself

REDES are raising the funds for the direct project costs from international donors. We the students will not be supplying any of the materials or paid labour for the project but if we are able to raise any extra funds, these will be donated to REDES to help continue the development of the Costa Rica community.

Donations

If you wish to support the project then please contact Paul Astle via the contact details on the first page. Cheques should be made payable to 'Paul Astle re El Salvador Project 2003'. They will be paid into an account set up especially for the project; full financial details will be attached to the final report.

El Salvador

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America – about the same size as Wales. Its GDP per capita is less than a typical student loan. In recent years the country, recovering from the civil war that ended in 1992, it was seriously damaged by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and later by the two earthquakes of early 2001. The capital, San Salvador, is the most frequently earthquake-damaged city in Latin America.



Earthquake Damage

On the 13th January 2001 El Salvador was hit by an earthquake of Magnitude 7.7 - the greatest magnitude registered in the country in the last 100 years.

	13 th January	13 th February
Deaths	844	283
Persons Injured	4723	2937
Houses Destroyed	79,979	32,148
Houses Damaged	1,329,806	173,356

The focus of the earthquake was in the Pacific Ocean at a depth of 39 km. One month later, the recovering country was hit by a second earthquake, of magnitude 6.6, with its epicentre inland, 15km to the east of the capital, San Salvador; very close to the community of Costa Rica.

The two earthquakes caused enormous damage in El Salvador, many adobe-construction buildings collapsed and landslips damaged buildings and roads throughout the country. The earthquakes struck over two years ago but today there are still many families living in temporary shelters without substantial infrastructure.

Costa Rica

The community of Costa Rica in the municipality of San Emigdio is located in the interior edge of the volcanic Crater Lake Ilopango to the east of San Salvador. The community is distributed on either sides of a single access road, with fifty families living in temporary dwellings of corrugated sheeting. The earthquakes of 2001 destroyed most of the community, all the houses and church were destroyed, and the school and sections of the access road were closed because of collapsed retaining walls and landslide.



Costa Rica