



**REGENERATION FIELD INSTITUTE (RFI)** is an LLC based in the San Francisco Bay Area of California and the province of Manabi in coastal Ecuador. We provide students with hands-on, innovative courses exploring regenerative bamboo building, design, and agricultural practices. In Ecuador specifically, our work focuses on bamboo construction through our community-led movement “Bahia Beach Construction” and our organic agroforestry farm, Los Arboleros. Bahia Beach Construction is an Ecuadorian coalition of architects, engineers, carpenters, builders, and community members modeling green infrastructure through reconstruction efforts in earthquake-stricken regions of coastal Ecuador. Los Arboleros Farm is a 71.5 acre organic farm in Chone that focuses on the production of bamboo, banana, plantain, citrus, cacao, moringa, and native hardwood species. Our mission is to create jobs in the post-earthquake economy of Coastal Ecuador and to teach rural communities how to add value to native bamboo species and other crops such as cacao. Through bamboo building training and the promotion of bamboo architecture, RFI promotes sustainable land management and beautiful seismically safe buildings.

Learn more at [www.regenerationfieldinstitute.com](http://www.regenerationfieldinstitute.com) and on Instagram, [@regenerationfieldinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/regenerationfieldinstitute) [@losarbolerosfarm](https://www.instagram.com/losarbolerosfarm)

### **Internship Position Announcement: Campus Representative**

**Location:** Your Respective University Campus

**Duration:** 1-2 semesters

**Benefits/Compensation:**

- ❖ 100% program scholarship + airfare and insurance (\$2,500-\$3,000 value) for reaching a minimum quota of students recruited for winter and/or summer sessions (approx 14 students)
- ❖ Unique experience working at home and abroad
- ❖ Opportunity to create connections to with faculty and international researchers to facilitate cross-cultural collaboration and participate in an innovative startup



**INTERNSHIP POSITION:** Join our team promoting community development, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable technologies in coastal Ecuador. Campus Reps act as liaisons between participating college students, professors and faculty, and RFI’s leadership. The Campus Rep invites other students to engage as volunteers, and participate in a 10-day international program during winter or summer. The program is open to all students and faculty interested in contributing and collaborating with our Ecuadorian architect, builder, researcher and farmer partners.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW:** Work with a team of students in learning practical and theoretical applications of bamboo building in Bahía de Caráquez (Bahía) and Chone in the province of Manabí. Bahía is a small coastal city in Ecuador that is actively using bamboo architecture to rebuild after a disastrous 7.8 magnitude earthquake and resulting aftershocks in 2016/ 2017. Chone though only a one hour drive from Bahia it has twice the annual rain, it is a medium sized city also recovering from the earthquake in a rural agricultural region where bamboo, cacao, bananas, and many other tropical crops are grown. A technical workshop is led by Ecuadorian bamboo architect Robinson Vega. Students, carpenters, and community members explore the history of bamboo architecture and concepts of sustainable design while actively building bamboo structures. The programs are hosted in both beautiful Bahía and Chone and include a 4-day bamboo lecture series, with 8 overall days of bamboo building training in which we construct a needed structure for a local community. The trip has many cultural exchange opportunities, delicious Ecuadorian food, we stay at our bamboo training campus at Los Arboleros Farm, learning the process of curing bamboo, working on agroforestry and tree-planting projects, chocolate making, critical thinking workshops, and design activities, with some evenings in town or on the beach.

**BACKGROUND:** In the late 1990s, Bahia experienced destruction from multiple natural disasters including earthquakes and torrential flooding of El Niño. Since then, the local community began reforestation and ecological education programs to work towards becoming an “Eco-City”. In April 2016, a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake placed Ecuador in a national state of emergency with more than a thousand dead and tens of thousands injured without access to clean food, water, and shelter. In light of these events, public discourse in coastal Ecuador is calling for rebuilding with seismically safe materials. RFI promotes bamboo as one means of accomplishing this while continuing to protect the endemic flora and fauna of Ecuador’s tropical dry forest. With an abundance of high quality “*caña guadua*” or guadua bamboo growing on farms in close proximity to the most affected areas, bamboo is one of the most local, ecologically friendly, and economically viable solutions for home reconstruction. RFI’s director Lucas Oshun has led the development of many environmental programs in Bahía as well as the reforestation of more than 65,000 native trees in the region over the past decade.



## QUALIFICATIONS:

- ❖ Focus on architecture, environmental sciences, engineering, global studies, business, or other relevant fields
- ❖ Meticulous attention to detail
- ❖ Strong organization skills
- ❖ Self-starter, flexible and able to manage multiple tasks
- ❖ Strong writing and oral communication skills
- ❖ Proficiency in Microsoft Office and Excel
- ❖ Effective interpersonal communication skills
- ❖ Ability to work in a team and independently
- ❖ A positive attitude

**WORK REQUIREMENTS:** 15 hours/week of active promotion on campus including mandatory weekly phone meetings with Program Manager. Recruit X# of students (or Y# over 2 trips with 2 reps) to reach minimum quota and earn the scholarship to travel to Ecuador for the program. Some sessions have two different universities participating and therefore have limited spaces available.

**PROMOTION STRATEGIES:** 1) Classroom announcements, 2) passing out flyers, 3) Meeting with professors and department advisors in office hours, 4) Networking with student leaders to promote the program through email listserves and social media 5) Hosting at least 5 interest meetings.

Interested applicants, please send your resume and cover letter to [loshunintl@gmail.com](mailto:loshunintl@gmail.com) and [mayaboone@berkeley.edu](mailto:mayaboone@berkeley.edu).

