

foundation for  
sustainable development



UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

# WHY PARTNER WITH FSD?

There is a growing trend among colleges and universities to cultivate programs that engage students in global issues. Since 1995, these institutions have relied on FSD to provide a structured training and immersion program that enables students to:

- Develop world-centric perspectives
- Gather the skills and capacity needed to work effectively in the field
- Collaboratively support grassroots projects that reflect sustainable, community-driven principles
- Build relationships with international communities that create professional and academic opportunities

By partnering with FSD, universities gain direct access to more than 200 community-based organizations in ten regions throughout Latin America, Africa, and Asia. These organizations are supported year-round by experienced FSD site teams that supply undergraduate and graduate students with unparalleled training, immersion, and field experience. Students work within a trusted network of relationships that allows them to quickly integrate into their host community and engage in meaningful development projects.

## FSD IS BUILDING A NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES COMMITTED TO:

- Effective pre-departure preparation
- Community-driven impact in the field
- Developing global citizens
- Support and reflection after FSD
- Continued student involvement with global activism

University partners utilize our training materials, on-the-ground technical support, and best practices to enhance their program development. Faculty also use FSD programs as the practicum phase for courses on effective and innovative development approaches that are aligned with FSD's mission.

If you are interested in exploring a partnership with us, you will be joining a network of people, programs, and resources that have spent more than 13 years working with students to support sustainable development.



# CREATING GLOBAL CITIZENS

## our approach

To achieve sustainable development, communities must actively participate in the planning, execution, and maintenance of any solutions that affect them. Our methods recognize the need to partner with local leaders, cultivate relationships, build trust between stakeholders, and integrate local value systems and resources in a community-centered approach. By working with FSD, students experientially learn this process and return home with a profound understanding of the issues that affect the developing world.

Students receive extensive pre-departure support from FSD to help them build realistic expectations, gain insight to the personal challenges they will face, and assess the preparatory steps they must take. FSD works with each of our university partners to customize the pre-departure process.

Once in-country, students receive an intensive orientation, ongoing training, reflective and educational group sessions, and regular meetings with the FSD site team to maximize their experience and ensure their work achieves a positive community impact.

- Health, Safety, and Security
- Local Development Issues, Belief Systems, and Cultural Perspectives
- Cross-cultural Communication and Integration Techniques
- An Outsider's Role in Fostering Sustainable Development
- Community Asset Mapping and Partnership Building
- Collaborative Project Design and Management
- Language Training (by request for Latin America)
- Grant Proposal Writing
- Tools for Online Advocacy and Fundraising
- Integrating Sustainability into Project Work
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation

## student training

## community partnership

FSD works with our partner organizations to ensure that students are effectively integrated into the work environment and appropriate project work. Host families are also trained to provide a safe, immersive home environment for students. Between the FSD site team, host organization, and host family, students are supported 24 hours a day. Through these relationships, students and community partners collaborate to enhance capacity and build projects that create lasting change.

## WHERE WE WORK

# UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

FSD offers three unique programs that are constructed to support undergraduate and graduate students of all skill levels who work in the field from ten days to 12 months. Each program is designed to optimize the individual's or group's impact on the host community.

**INTERN ABROAD** is our most advanced program and demands a strong student capacity to work creatively and independently. The program is often customized to meet the needs of our university partners.

## intern abroad

### program snapshot

- 9 to 52 weeks in the field
- 40 hour work week schedule
- Individual placement with a host organization and host family
- Comprehensive development training prior to community engagement
- Critical analysis and asset mapping done by student to define work plan
- Collaborative project development between student, host organization, and FSD site team
- \$200 seed grant for work plan initiation
- Eligibility for up to \$1,000 in additional project funding from FSD

**GROUP ENGAGE** is an intermediate program that, similar to Intern Abroad, supplies students with significant training and project development experience. However, the program offers greater structure and allows students to work with their peers as a group on community-driven projects. Project work focuses on assessing and combining community assets to catalyze sustainable impact that the community builds upon after the group's departure.

## group engage

### program snapshot

- 6 to 10 weeks in the field
- 40 hour work week schedule
- 5 to 6 students per host organization and 2 students per host family
- Comprehensive development training prior to community engagement
- Collaborative project development between group, host organization, and FSD site team
- \$1,000 to \$1,200 seed grant for project initiation and eligibility for up to \$2,500 in additional project funding from FSD
- Group is led by a student leader and/or university representative that adheres to a specific set of defined responsibilities

**SERVICE LEARNING TRIPS (SLT)** provide an introduction to international development for students who are looking for a structured exposure and opportunity to engage in community-driven development. The SLT program involves one to two short-term service projects along with supplementary lectures, site visits, workshops, and cultural activities. SLTs are customized around the interests of university groups, while training and project work are adapted to the group's objectives.

## service learning trips

### program snapshot

- 10 to 28 days in the field
- 40 hour work week schedule
- 10 to 18 students per group and 2 students per host family
- Comprehensive development training prior to community engagement
- Project funding from FSD is based on the number of students and the length of time in the field
- Group is led by a student leader and/or university representative that adheres to a specific set of defined responsibilities

## WHAT WE DO

environment   microfinance   youth and education   health   human rights   women's empowerment   community development

# FSD PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

FSD customizes its programs to meet the needs of several institutions throughout the nation. Some partnerships include academic credit and coursework, while others are solely focused on international engagement. Below are examples of how each of our programs has been adapted to meet our partners' objectives.

## northwestern university

group engage

Northwestern University partnered with FSD to create the Global Engagement Summer Institute (GESI). More than 100 students from around the nation participate in a 10 day training at Northwestern University, taking two credit-bearing courses: Introduction to International Community Development; and Theory and Practice of Community Consulting. Students then spend seven weeks with FSD in Argentina, India, or Uganda, participating in our GROUP ENGAGE program. Groups of six students will work jointly with our partner organizations to develop and implement community-driven projects. GESI concludes with a three-day comparative final summit in Chicago.

Gettysburg College partnered with FSD to create the Heston Summer Program to actively engage students in local and global service. As a fellow of the program in 2008, Tara O'Shea interned with FSD in Chagüitillo, Nicaragua. Chagüitillo is a beautiful, abundant farming community that is being rapidly deforested to support a growing need for cooking fuel. In collaboration with her host organization, Tara designed a ceramic, coffee bean shell burning stove. Through a series of workshops, eight women learned the skill of ceramics and are now producing these ecological cooking stoves. The Pre-Columbian Museum of Chagüitillo sells the stoves to sustain this and other community projects.

## gettysburg college

projects in action

## duke university

intern abroad

Duke University and DukeEngage partner with FSD to provide 15 summer fellowships for Duke students to work in grassroots development in Kenya through our INTERN ABROAD program. Prior to departure, students complete a workshop series at Duke University on four topics: The Ethics of Engagement; Cross Cultures; Project Development; and Community History/Safety Training. Students then work individually with local organizations in Kenya for eight weeks, collaborating on grassroots project work before returning to Duke for collective debriefing.

## stanford university

service learning trips

The Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University developed a summer service learning program with FSD. The program begins with a reading course in the spring quarter, followed by three to four weeks of direct engagement in Argentina, Nicaragua, or India with FSD's SLT program. Students then return to Stanford for a series of debriefing activities. Coursework and the SLT projects are designed and facilitated by student leaders in collaboration with a faculty member and FSD. The program is credit-bearing and available to 35 to 40 Stanford students each year.



CLAUDE RENAULT

## university of north carolina, chapel hill

## university of notre dame

## university of southern california

## emory university

## boston college

## princeton university

## university of maryland

## university of san francisco

## university of california, berkeley



The Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1995 to support underserved, international communities in a collaborative and sustainable manner. Our model incorporates three overlapping programs:

## GRANTMAKING

Donations and grants given to FSD are used to support sustainable projects and capacity enhancement initiatives led by our partner organizations, site teams, interns, and volunteers.

## FACILITATING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Our professional field staff, consultants, and program participants provide on-site technical training, capacity enhancement, and networking opportunities to more than 200 community-based organizations.

## TRAINING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

FSD provides comprehensive training and immersion programs for interns and volunteers who seek hands-on development experience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Program participants come from a variety of professional backgrounds and more than 300 universities worldwide to collaborate with our partner organizations on community-driven projects that reflect sustainable principles.

### foundation for sustainable development

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FSD is a not-for-profit charitable organization with 501(c)(3) status. We are a non-endowed foundation and rely on the annual support of generous individuals, foundations, and corporations.

