

## **Information For CAO Student Candidates**

To become a student at Centro de Aprendizaje Organico (CAO) candidates need to be at least 17 years of age and need to enjoy the rural life of agriculture and want to learn about organic agriculture. They cannot use or sell illegal drugs. The candidate needs to be willing to work as part of a team and be respectful to everyone on the team. The candidate needs to be in good health and needs to be willing to live away from home, only going home for five days of vacation every four months.

Some students will live at CAO and some will live at home commuting each day to CAO.

All students will receive a cash scholarship each month for personal expenses or to help their family or to save in the bank. The amount of the scholarship depends on the effort of the student. The scholarship is similar to a report card in other universities.

Each new student will start with a six thousand per month cash scholarship. In the following months, the scholarship will go up if the student is a good student. Some students will receive an A, while other students will receive a B or a C or a D. Students who apply themselves, work diligently, follow instructions are punctual and have a positive attitude, will receive more scholarship than those who are late or lazy or don't follow instructions correctly or have a negative attitude with the director or other students.

Those living at CAO will also receive food and bed and boots.

Each student is expected to open their own personal bank account and save in the bank a minimum of 500 each month for their future investments.

CAO is for students interested in a future in agriculture. CAO will help good students to begin agriculture business growing plants and animals or if they prefer to get jobs with an ONG. One of the goals of CAO is to help responsible students without land or a home to purchase land and build a home.

Students will learn how to have a farm, to make a living growing things to eat and sell. Students will learn about growing healthy food and healthy

eating. Because organic farming is the new future, our graduates can get jobs on other organic farms or to have their own farm.

CAO is not about books but about hands on learning. There will be books and seminars and videos and a library for learning but most of the learning will be from practical experience and conversation on the farm.

The farm is an experimental farm. Every student will be involved in experiments in growing plants and animals in ways that reduce or eliminate the need to buy fertilizer for plants or concentrate for animals.

There is not often heavy lifting or heavy work at CAO but every day is busy and students are expected to stay busy using their time wisely and efficiently. Part of being successful in farming is using one's time wisely and efficiently. Therefore, we want students to learn to work wisely and efficiently to as to maximize their production.

The normal day at CAO is from 6 am to 4 pm. Monday through Friday. Saturday is 6 am to 2 pm. Sunday is approximately 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon to care for animals. Lights are out at 9 pm for everyone to sleep. That means turn your music, videos, etc. off so others can sleep. We awaken at 5:30. All students wash their own clothing and help with cleaning in the kitchen and living area. There is a cook, but when she is off, students will need to take turns cooking for themselves.

The main quality of candidates is they must be very responsible and have a desire to work and learn and want to be successful creating a better life for themselves. The person who wants to argue or be negative is not the person to study at CAO. The lazy person without ambition and without a desire to create a better future, is not suited for study at CAO. The person who wants to spend their days watching TV and playing on the phone is not the person to study at CAO. The dishonest person or liar or drug user is not welcome at CAO.

Students are expected to be 100% honest in everything they do because honesty is the best way to build a successful life. Because we can learn from our mistakes, we always admit our mistakes and learn from them.

Instructions need to be followed exactly. If the instructions are not followed exactly, then tell Evelyn or Nahum why. For example, if the experiment is to

feed a certain plant to an animal and you can't find that plant, then tell Evelyn so we know to adjust the experiment procedures. If you think you have a better way to do something, that is excellent but communicate with Evelyn so we know how the experiment is working. Don't decide quietly to do it a different way.

For security reasons, not many people are invited to visit CAO. If you want to invite someone to visit you at CAO, first discuss it with Nahum. In other words, friends and family can't just stop by whenever they want to.

If you decide to live and study at CAO, you can go home every 4 months for 5 days. Or for a death or wedding in your immediate family. If there are other urgent needs to go home, discuss them with Nahum.

There will often be volunteers from the USA and other countries at CAO. Therefore, it is good if students take advantage of opportunities we provide to learn English so they can practice English with the volunteers.

Students will be traveling for learning and for teaching. In other words, students will go some places to learn and will go to other places to teach classes. Because all students can't be gone at the same time, some will travel and some will stay at CAO. One of the best ways to learn is to teach others the things you have learned. Therefore, each student is expected to become a teacher.

The purpose of CAO is to have students become successful in life. There will be opportunities at CAO to learn many things in addition to agriculture. Some of the most dedicated students will be able to do a practicum in other countries. We want students to learn much so they can teach much. Students may remain at CAO as long as they are learning and teaching. Some will stay for weeks and some will stay for many years and become the traveling teaching staff of CAO.

You are at CAO to learn. This is not a vacation and it is not a job. It is not for those who are looking for a quick reward. It will take you years to learn how to develop a successful life and to learn a new form of agriculture and nutrition that will provide you a better life. If you give a 100% effort you **will** succeed and you **will** have a good future.

Questions for candidates to answer.

1. Do you understand that you are expected to always work harmoniously with Evelyn and with fellow students and with gringo volunteers?
2. Do you understand that you are expected to be 100% honest in your work and life on campus?
3. Do you understand that Evelyn is your direct supervisor and you are expected to do exactly as she says?

My signature and date indicates I have read and understand and agree with this document.