

# MY GIP EXPERIENCE

## Global Affairs in Bogotá

### Alejandro Jimenez

Major: Geography/Environmental Studies

Term Abroad: Summer 2023

Internship Title: International Environmental Intern

Internship Company: Fundación Catalina Muñoz

#### What were your primary responsibilities as an intern?

As an intern at Fundación Catalina Muñoz, my primary responsibilities included the creation of text for an environmental portfolio and volunteer manual, research of international funding opportunities, and translation of documents into English. The focus of my internship was on the environmental component of the organization related to school gardens and community orchards.

#### What was your biggest accomplishment at your internship?

My biggest accomplishment was aiding in the creation of informational manuals regarding protocols for the maintenance of school gardens and community orchards taking into account soil, climate, sunlight, and water needs. These manuals were necessary for volunteers and community members to not only establish spaces, but to maintain them thriving.

#### What was your favorite part about living in your host city?

My favorite part was how the physical urban setting of Bogotá is integrated with the people and communities that occupy the city. For example, there are concrete markers of people and their relationships to the physical space; how they make art, how they live and work, how their identities are integral to the spaces they inhabit.

#### What is one thing you wish you knew before departing for your program?

I wish I knew that even though Colombia has a violent history that is very much in the consciousness of the people, there is an immense amount of beauty that the country embodies. Popular media tries to nullify and overshadow that beauty and culture yet through interacting with people and experiencing the culture that history can be taken into account alongside the vitality of Colombia.

#### What was the most memorable aspect of your internship experience?

The most memorable experiences were those in which I shared meals in community with co-workers and had opportunities to get to know them outside of work obligations. In these moments, I felt more connected and capable of nurturing relationships built upon genuine interest in each other's lives.



Top: View of Bogotá from Cerro de Monserrate.  
Middle: Ale at Pride, Bogotá  
Bottom: With Bogotá sign from Cerro de Monserrate