



2024 INTERN APPLICATION

Essex St. Cheese & Queseria 1605 Internships Spain

Essex St. Cheese puts education at the forefront of its work. Even during a global pandemic, we teach about cheese whenever and however we can. We have the belief that mongers who know more about their cheese—how to care for it, how to serve it, the story behind it—serve their customers better. Plus, it's just way more fun to come to work every day when you're connected to the history of great cheese. One way to get connected is to visit the cheesemaking and aging at its source.

We host an internship program for cheese mongers to learn about cheese in its homeland. The first stop is Finca Sierra La Solana, the home of Queseria 1605 Manchego. The creamery has won awards year after year for their high quality PDO Manchego Artesano cheese and the farm has garnered accolades for their humane treatment of their flock of Manchega sheep. The head cheesemaker is Maria-José Gonzalez who has over fifteen years of experience making this cheese. She works directly with the *pastores* (shepherds) and Darío Lladó, the General Manager and the host of this internship.

About the Internships

We will offer two internships in Spain. Applications are due 2023 for internships in 2024. They will run simultaneously for ten days. They will start at Finca Sierra La Solana in La Mancha, a few hours south of Madrid. The interns will work outdoors with Juan and his team of shepherds to take care of the animals including feeding and milking. They'll experience cheesemaking and affinage alongside Maria José and her small team in the creamery. They will assist in receiving orders and packing shipments for both domestic and international clients. After a week the interns will spend a few days hosted by José-Luis Martín, master affineur and selector, in Madrid. They will attend events and do store visits, including Jose-Luis's caves and cheese bar Qava (qavadequesos.com).

**What should I expect?**

This is a strenuous, physical internship. While on the farm, you'll spend long days on your feet making cheese, caring for cheese, and then being out with animals in the fields. You will have your own accommodations and rest times but the internet is minimal. Prepare to enjoy the great outdoors or siesta sans technology.

When staying in Madrid, you will be in a large city navigating customers and co-workers in a foreign language—although the majority of the staff you encounter do speak some English. You'll see a lot so come prepared to take notes and digest later.

When is internship season?

You will work with Darío and the other intern to choose a ten-day period in spring 2024 that likely coincides with the Madrid Spanish Cheese Awards (Concurso Gourmet Quesos) .

Who can apply?

Cheese mongers who are customers of Essex St. Cheese and sell Manchego 1605. You must be working at the same business when you apply and when you travel for the internship.

What do I need to apply?

1. Proof of up-to-date covid vaccinations including boosters.
2. A one-page vision of what you'll do with what you've learned. Set it a year or two in the future looking back, describing the impacts and effects of your internship.
3. A one-page resumé.
4. A letter of recommendation from a leader you report to at your business.
5. Basic understanding of Spanish and some ability to speak it.
6. Driver's license.

What's the application deadline?

September 1, 2023

When will I know if I won?

October 15, 2023

Where do I send my application?

Rachel Juhl

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What if I have other questions?

Email or call Rachel Juhl

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1605 pays for	Essex reimburses for	Intern pays for
Travel Rental car Monday-Friday Accommodations Sunday night in Madrid hotel in Alcazar de San Juan Monday through Friday at farm Meals Breakfast & lunch, Monday through Friday	Travel NA Accommodations Friday through Wednesday in Madrid Meals Dinner at farm All Madrid meals	Travel Flight to and from Madrid Accommodations Before or after internship Meals Before or after internship Crazy nights on the town!