



# Escuela Vera Angelita

*Where dreams become reality*



Nestled in the stunning cloud forests and surrounding coffee lands of northern Nicaragua, a novel innovation in education and international development is taking root. With aspirations of not only uplifting the educational standards of this often-overlooked part of the world, this new model endeavors to serve as a catalyst for wider, holistic, and sustainable community development as well.

An initiative of U.S.-based nonprofit organization **Visions Global Empowerment**, working in partnership with philanthropist Robert D. Friedman, Escuela Vera Angelita is a private, nonprofit boarding school for girls who hail from underserved & vulnerable communities across Nicaragua. In February 2022, the school will open its doors to our inaugural class starting with Grades 5-8 only, though it will ultimately serve young women from Grades 5-12.

This modern school campus lies on a beautiful 437-acre property in the community of La Grecia in San Ramón, Matagalpa, Nicaragua. The school campus is located in a secure section of the almost entirely self-sufficient Vera Angelita, which is also home to a full-fledged farm, coffee plantation, botanical gardens, onsite housing for staff & guests, plant nursery and private nature reserve.

***We endeavor to break the cycles of poverty by investing in the education of motivated and aspiring young women leaders.***

On track to become the first **LEED**-certified school in the country, our curriculum equally reflects our commitment to the environment by following the **UNESCO "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)"** academic model. We see our future students as guardians of the planet and of our collective future, and we know that an investment in their education and personal development will lead to them both realizing their aspirations and making a positive impact on our global community.



Simply stated, the school's mission is to inspire and prepare young Nicaraguan women to realize their own aspirations. We endeavor to enable them in leading independent, healthy, goal-driven, and meaningful lives and to develop their academic, personal and professional leadership abilities for active participation in the modern world. Given the many challenges facing Nicaragua and the world today, we all benefit when bright, motivated and well-rounded leaders rise to their potential and develop a deep sense of commitment toward making a difference in their communities.

Prospective students who successfully demonstrate a passion and a capacity for learning, inherent leadership qualities, and a desire to make a positive impact on our world will receive an education with full room & board at no cost to them or their families. Our bilingual (Spanish/English) curriculum is focused on experiential learning with the intent of developing critical thinking abilities, while also nurturing student passions and developing the skills needed to understand and address important local and global issues. Coursework will cover the following major subject areas:

- Mathematics
- Social Science
- Science
- Language & Literature (Spanish)
- English
- Physical Health (Yoga, Physical Education/Sports)
- Leadership/Global Skills
- Environmental Agency
- General Culture
- Vocational Skills
- Technology & Innovation
- Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Dance)
- Agronomy & Agriculture

Escuela Vera Angelita students are required to live onsite during the academic year and will return home at the completion of each semester. Graduates will receive diplomas recognized by both national and international accreditation entities, thereby opening doors for our students to pursue their academic, personal and professional goals, whatever they may be.

Aside from the school itself, Vera Angelita as a whole brings myriad benefits to the local community, including:

- Economic (i.e. jobs, industry diversification, total investment)
- Environmental (i.e. water restoration, reforestation, training/education, research)
- Developmental (i.e. agricultural training & access to free genetic material, philanthropic outreach, community-building)
- Educational (i.e. teacher training, curriculum & technology sharing, outreach)