

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING



INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING ABROAD HAS BEEN GROWING STEADILY FOR MANY YEARS, WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES LOCATED IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

International volunteering allows you to have unmatched, new experiences, learn from other cultures and develop skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication.



IN ORDER TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT WHETHER YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER INTERNATIONALLY YOU MUST CONSIDER WHAT YOUR MOTIVATIONS ARE

International volunteering can be a very good route for personal development helping to learn and develop a greater understanding of the broader world. These opportunities can help bring positive change to the communities they are situated in, allowing you to share your skills and experience in a way that helps those who value the assistance.

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR MOTIVATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERING. VOLUNTEERS SHOULD NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO TAKE AN OPPORTUNITY, OR USE IT AS AN ESCAPE OR TOURIST TRIP.

TYPES OF VOLUNTEERING:



HEALTH



CONSTRUCTION



LAW



MENTORING



EDUCATION



IT



HUMAN RIGHTS



ENVIRONMENTAL

CATEGORY OF ORGANISATIONS

Not for profit: charities, NGOs, governmental organisations/programmes

For profit: travel companies, adventure companies

LENGTH OF PLACEMENT

Short term
2-12 weeks

Medium term
3-6 months

Long term
1-2 years

VOLUNTEERING CAN BE A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS BEING CHALLENGING.

We fully encourage all those considering volunteering internationally to research the organisation they are volunteering with, as well as the culture, location and local situation where the opportunity is based.



VOLUNTOURISM

Voluntourism (volunteer tourism) is a trend of 'doing good' abroad, often marketed by travel companies that involves unethical volunteering.

Many organisations promoting 'voluntourism' are not equipped to engage volunteers meaningfully in development challenges or intercultural living, leading to perhaps more harm than good being done in the destination country. In order to ensure positive volunteering experiences of international volunteers and host communities, volunteers are encouraged to be well informed and prepared in advance of going overseas.



COMHLÁMH

Comhlámh promotes responsible, responsive international volunteering. The Comhlámh “Code of Good Practice” is a set of standards for volunteer sending agencies involved in facilitating international volunteer placements. The code is based on a vision of volunteers working in solidarity for a just, equitable and sustainable world. This code ensures that international volunteering has a positive impact on the volunteer and host community. It also requires agencies to ensure that volunteers are fully informed about cultural, health, safety issues and are aware of their responsibilities.



SENDING ORGANISATION

Volunteers are encouraged to choose one of the many sending organisations that have signed Comhlámh's 'Code of Good Practice' - many of whom advertise on studentvolunteer.ie

HOST PROJECT

Host projects are the organisations/groups in the destination country. Host communities are the people with whom volunteers work & live with while overseas.



THIS IS A **STUDENTVOLUNTEER.IE** DOCUMENT MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF COMHLÁMH.

We are supporting good practice in international volunteering and are committed to a vision of international volunteers working in solidarity for a just, equitable and sustainable world.

For further information please go to studentvolunteer.ie and comhlamh.org

