

Volunteering Overseas 2017

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There are around 100 organisations in Britain that place volunteers overseas. Most opportunities will require you to pay for your own travel arrangements, and some will require an administration fee. Volunteering overseas can be an extremely rewarding experience, but is not something that should be entered into lightly it does require some planning.

What to consider before volunteering overseas?

Length of time is a critical factor, as projects vary from short-term placements of a few weeks to longer-term projects of two years or more.

- Most organisations will ask you to pay an administration fee for arranging the trip for you.
- It is important to check whether the project provides for travel, accommodation, food and pocket money.
- Some projects ask for people with particular skills or experience.
- Many agencies are small and will place a limited number of volunteers.
- Most organisations accept volunteers aged 18+. (The following listing marks out organisations that accept those younger than 18)
- Some organisations are aimed at those of a particular religion.
- Applications to do overseas voluntary work should be made well in advance.

Raising the money



Unless you have savings or will be doing paid work overseas, you are likely to have to raise some or all of your own expenses before you go. Some agencies suggest ways of raising money and many organisations consider this to be part of the experience .

Examples of how to raise money include organising a dinner, sponsored bike ride, cake sale or even (if you're feeling creative) a zombie party! Check the following websites for more ideas:

www.ideasfundraising.co.uk

www.better-fundraising-ideas.com

www.studential.com/gap-years/travelling/planning/money/fundraising-ideas

It is also worth approaching the local paper; they might do a short article about your trip. Contact details for local press sites can be found on their websites:

Harrogate Advertiser Series - www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk (@HarrogateHound)

Harrogate Informer - www.harrogate-news.co.uk (@Harrogate_News)

Check out Organisations

It is important that you check out any organisation thoroughly before handing over any money or leaving the country. Ask if you can be put in touch with people who have been on their projects before. If possible, try to speak to someone who has volunteered with them in person rather than trusting testimonials (reputable organisations often invite ex-volunteers to talk to prospective volunteers).

You will need your own travel insurance. Make sure you also check that the organisation's insurance covers you for the kind of work that you will be doing.

Think carefully about the kind of work that you will be doing

Spend some time researching the country that you want to go to, check out the political situation, climate etc. Is there a genuine need for volunteers to do this or has the opportunity been created as an adventure holiday?

The following listing is by no means comprehensive! An internet search will produce lots more options for you to have a look at. Please note that those listed above are not endorsed or recommended in anyway by Harrogate & Ripon Volunteer Centre. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that their placement is a safe, genuine and happy one.

Organisations offering opportunities overseas

African Conservation Experience

Age: All ages from 18 upwards.

Length of Projects: 2 to 12 weeks

Ideal for: Gap year students, Career breaks, 50+, Groups

African Conservation Experience has been sending volunteers to southern Africa for over a decade. ACE have placed over 5000 volunteers with more than 15 conservation projects. Projects are selected on the basis of real conservation value, the genuine wildlife experience they provide to volunteers and their contribution to the local environment and community.

www.conservationafrica.net

Tel: 01454 269 182



Biosphere Expeditions

Age: All ages from 18 upwards.

Length of Projects: A weekend to several months.

Ideal for: Career breaks, 50+, Individuals

Biosphere Expeditions is an international non-profit wildlife volunteer organisation, founded in 1999, that runs conservation expeditions (conservation holidays) for environmental volunteers all across the globe. They offer expeditions where you will explore fascinating parts of the world, have fun and a real hands-on experience of working on wildlife conservation volunteering projects. At least two-thirds of your volunteer holiday contribution will go directly into the conservation project locally, funding it long-term and sustainably.

www.biosphere-expeditions.org

uk@biosphere-expeditions.org

Tel: 0870 4460801

British Exploring Society

Age: 16-25s

Length of Projects: On average 3-5 weeks.

Ideal for: Students and Groups

British Exploring Society is a youth development charity that organises challenging scientific expeditions to remote, wild environments to develop the confidence, teamwork, leadership and spirit of adventure and exploration of its Young Explorers. Projects are based in challenging areas of the world including the Himalayas, the Arabian desert, the Arctic and the Amazon.

www.britishexploring.org

info@britishexploring.org

Tel 020 7591 3141

Bunac

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: 1 week to over 6 months

Ideal for: Gap Year Students, Career breaks

Established in 1962 BUNAC has been helping young people work and travel overseas for over 50 years. BUNAC provides ethical, low-cost volunteering abroad programmes across Africa, Asia and the Americas. Volunteering opportunities include teaching English, coaching sports to children, helping conserve the environment, or working on an animal research project. The majority of programmes also include volunteer excursions to local tourist destinations. Popular BUNAC destinations include: USA, South Africa, Venezuela, Borneo, Tanzania, Thailand and many more.

www.bunac.org.uk/uk/volunteer

enquiries@bunac.org.uk

Tel: 033 3999 7516

Camp America

Age: You must be over 18 by 1st June in the year you wish to travel.

Length of Projects: 9 weeks

Ideal for: Students, Summer volunteer placements

Since 1969, Camp America have sent over 200,000 young people to work on camps spread all throughout the USA. Summer camp in America is a massive tradition and it's estimated there are 12,000 camps spread all over the country.



Participants can work directly with American children; by instructing or assisting them in activities, or even work behind the scenes as support staff – in roles such as kitchen and maintenance. 30 days travel time is included. Camp is a truly international environment and you'll make friends with people from all corners of the globe – opening up opportunities to travel with them after camp and then visit them in their own country.

www.campamerica.co.uk

enquiries@campamerica.co.uk

Tel: 0207 581 7373

Challenges Worldwide

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: flexible please contact Challenges to discuss.

Ideal for: People with professional skills, career breaks, couples.

Challenges Worldwide is an international development charity and award winning social enterprise. They recruit volunteers with professional skills and experience and train them to work with local overseas partners in developing countries. They deliberately keep volunteer numbers small to maintain the high quality which comes from working closely with volunteers. Doing so enables them to build bespoke international volunteer assignments that match the specific skills and priorities of the volunteer with the requirements of the partner organisation.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to send a CV so Challenges can match them to a project. Volunteers will generally be based by themselves or in pairs should they apply together.

www.challengesworldwide.com

info@challengesworldwide.com

Tel: 0131 225 9549

Concordia Overseas Volunteers

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: 2 weeks—12 months

Ideal for: Individuals, Volunteer Holidays, with friends, Summer volunteer placements

Concordia works with over 80 partners across the world to list short and long term low-cost volunteering projects. All the projects listed are small local projects which are members of the Alliance of European Voluntary Services or The Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service. These projects are ideally suited to someone who is comfortable travelling alone as you will be immersed in the local community and could be part of a small team.

www.concordiavolunteers.org.uk/overseas-volunteering

info@concordiavolunteers.org.uk

Tel: 01273 422218

Cross Cultural Solutions

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: 1—12 weeks

Ideal for: Summer volunteer placements. Gap year Students, Groups, Families

Cross-Cultural Solutions was founded in 1995 and has offices in the USA, UK, Canada and Australia. Each year, over 4,000 people volunteer abroad with CCS in Brazil, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Peru, Tanzania and Thailand in the areas of caregiving, teaching, healthcare, and community development. CCS offer volunteering options for gap year students, high school students, groups, families and international internships. There is free time to explore during the programme on afternoons and weekends.

www.crossculturalsolutions.org

infouk@crossculturalsolutions.org

Tel: 0845 458 2781

Coral Cay Conservation

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: Minimum 2 weeks (forest conservation) & 4 weeks (coral reef conservation)

Ideal for: Gap year Students, Career breaks, Summer Volunteer Placements

CCC is an award winning specialists in coral reef and tropical forest conservation. You can join projects as a volunteer, researcher or specialist. Volunteers work hands-on, out in a tropical forest (involves trekking) or on a coral reef (involves scuba diving). Projects are available in the Caribbean, Cambodia and the Philippines. Volunteers will be placed in groups of 5 to 25 people.

www.coralcay.org

info@coralcay.org

Tel: 020 76201411

Earthwatch Institute

Age: Teens & Adults

Length of Projects: A long weekend to 2 weeks

Ideal for: Volunteer holidays, Families, Couples

Earthwatch is an international environmental charity which is committed to conserving the diversity and integrity of life on earth to meet the needs of current and future generations. Volunteers are of all ages over 18 and from all backgrounds. Expeditions, research and education projects are around the fields of climate change, archaeology & culture, ocean health and wildlife & eco systems.

<http://eu.earthwatch.org/>

info@earthwatch.org.uk

Tel: 01865 318 838



Globalteer

Age: 18+ (around half of volunteers are aged 30+)

Length of Projects: 1 – 12 weeks

Ideal for: Career breaks, Volunteer Holidays, Summer Volunteer Placements



Globalteer is a registered charity aiming to promote sustainable development in South East Asia and South America. Globalteer has built up relationships with number of carefully selected community, wildlife and conservation projects over the years and its ethos is to provide responsible volunteer placements. The majority of volunteers come from the UK, USA and Australia with significant numbers from Canada, Germany, Ireland, and New Zealand.

www.globalteer.org

Tel: 0117 2309998

International Citizenship Service

Age: 18-25 and team leaders are 23+

Length of Projects: 12 weeks – 6 months

Ideal for: Gap year Students

International Citizen Service (ICS) is the UK's leading global volunteering programme for young people who want to do voluntary development work abroad. ICS brings together young people from different countries to fight poverty – with volunteers from the UK working alongside overseas volunteers. ICS only work with projects that have specifically asked for their help – and where our volunteers can use their energy and skills to make a direct impact on reducing poverty.

ICS are based in York and offer some fully funded volunteer placements. They are currently recruiting volunteers for September 2015.

www.internationalservice.org.uk

contact@internationalservice.org.uk

Tel: 01904 647799

International Student Volunteers (ISV)

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: 2-4 weeks

Ideal for: Students, Summer Volunteer Placements

ISV aims to support sustainable development initiatives around the world through life-changing volunteering and responsible adventure travel programs. Projects are based in New Zealand, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Thailand and South Africa. Projects include 2 weeks of volunteering with a focus on conservation, children's programmes or environment management followed by 2 weeks of adventure travel.



www.isvolunteers.org

gb-info@isvolunteers.org

Tel: 0203 2877976

I-to-I

Age: 16+

Length of Projects: 1-12 weeks

Ideal for: Gap year Students, Groups, Career breaks, 55+

I-to-I is a globally recognised responsible travel organization providing volunteering experiences with over 80 projects around the world. Projects are available in the areas of teaching, building, conservation, wildlife and sports in South and Central America and Africa. Select volunteer placements are available for 16 and 17 year olds (www.i-to-i.com/u18).

www.i-to-i.com

tefl@i-to-i.com

Tel: 0113 2054610



Lattitude

Age: 17-25s

Length of Projects: 2-12 months

Ideal for: Gap year Students, Summer Volunteer Placements

Lattitude has been around for more than 40 years and specialises in volunteering for 17-25 year-olds. Lattitude offer a variety of volunteer roles including teaching, caring, medical, outdoor and community. Projects are based in Australia, Argentina, Canada, Western Europe, Ghana, South Africa, China, India and Japan.

www.lattitude.org.uk

Tel: 0118 959 4914

Raleigh International

Age: 17– 24 & 25-75

Length of Projects: 5-10 weeks

Ideal for: Gap year Students, Career Breaks, Over 55s

Raleigh International was set up in 1984. Programmes focus on providing access to safe water and sanitation, protecting vulnerable environments, building resilient communities and inspiring young leaders. Raleigh offer different programmes for young people aged 17-24 and a career breaks programme for 25-75 year olds who want to volunteer with young people (<https://raleighinternational.org/what-we-do/raleigh-expeditions/aged-25-and-over>). Projects are based in Tanzania, Malaysian Borneo and Nicaragua/ Costa Rica.

<https://raleighinternational.org>

info@raleighinternational.org

Tel: 020 7183 1270

Restless Development

Age: 18- 25 (limited places for 23+ as Leaders)

Length of Projects: 10-12 weeks

Ideal for: Gap year Students, Students with an interest in International Development

International Citizenship Service (ICS) work with Restless Development to give young people a leadership role in addressing the most urgent issues facing their countries and the world. Projects focus on Civic participation, employment and sexual and reproductive health (including HIV). Projects are based in India, Africa, Nepal and the USA. Restless Development explain they are not a typical gap year company providing back packing and sight seeing they are about tackling issues, developing skills whilst exploring. 'Rest less. Change More.'

<http://restlessdevelopment.org/>

info@restlessdevelopment.org

Tel: 020 7633 3350

UNA Exchange

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: 2 weeks—12 months

Ideal for: Gap year Students, Volunteer holidays, Career breaks

UNA Exchange was set up in Cardiff and places volunteers in over 60 countries. There are a huge range of roles available using the project search on their website.

www.unaexchange.org

info@unaexchange.org

Tel: 02920 223088

Unipal

Age: 20+ (There is no upper age limit but it is very demanding work in a hot climate, so you need to be fit.)

Length of Projects: 3-5 week programmes during July and August

Ideal for: Career breaks, Summer Volunteer Placements

Teach English to children aged 12-15 or arts, crafts, music and drama with younger children in the West Bank or with Palestinian communities in Lebanon. Volunteers should be native English speakers. Volunteers live in small single-sex teams of 4 or 5 with an experienced coordinator. Closing date for applications is February each year.

www.unipal.org.uk

info@unipal.org.uk



Volunteer Africa

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: 2-10 weeks

Ideal for: Career breaks, Summer Volunteer Placements, Volunteer holidays, Gap year Students

Volunteer Africa is run by a team of committed volunteers with the dual aims of enabling people to make a difference to the lives of rural Africans and to raise funds for their partner NGOs. Volunteers participate from all over the world participate in their programmes and come from all walks of life and ages.

www.volunteerafrica.org

support@volunteerafrica.org

Tel: 01629 640980

VSO

Age: 18+

Length of Projects: 6-24 months

Ideal for: Career breaks, Professional skilled volunteers

VSO is the world's leading independent international development organisation that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries. VSO's high-impact approach involves bringing people together to share skills, build capabilities, promote international understanding and action, and change lives to make the world a fairer place for all. Volunteers must have a degree and a minimum of 2-5 years professional experience.

www.vso.org.uk

enquiry@vso.org.uk

Tel: 020 8780 7500



Harrogate & Ripon Centres for Voluntary Service is an independent charity supporting people in the Harrogate District to find out about and get involved in volunteering. In an average month...



 We help 39 people to find out about volunteering locally

 We support 11 people to take up a new volunteer role

We rely on the generous support of individuals and funders who make voluntary donations towards our service.

If you have received information and advice from the Volunteer Centre and would like to make a donation towards our services there are different ways you can do so:

Post a Cheque to our Harrogate Office: Please make cheques payable to 'Harrogate & Ripon Volunteer Centre' and mark the envelope 'fundraising'.

Donate Online: To make a secure online donation please visit

If you would like further advice about any aspect of volunteering please get in touch with us at:

Volunteer Centre (Harrogate Office)
Community House
46-50 East Parade
Harrogate
HG1 5RR
Tel: 01423 504074

Volunteer Centre (Ripon Office)
Community House
Sharow View, Allhallowgate
Ripon
HG4 1LE

Email: volunteer@harcvs.org.uk



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@HgateRiponVC

