

## Volunteering Overseas

The Students' Union does not currently advertise on behalf of any international volunteering organisations, as our priority is to encourage students to work to make a difference in the local community. However, we are more than happy to give advice to any students considering an overseas placement.

Volunteering overseas can offer a completely different and sometimes life changing experience, but it is a big decision to make. Be sure to look around to find the experience that suits you

### Do your research and ask questions

#### Checklist

Here is our recommended checklist to ask yourself and the organisation:-

- **Aims:** What are your main goals for volunteering? Does the organisation allow you to achieve them?
- **Finance:** How much will the FULL project cost? And how will you fundraise?
- **Extra Costs:** Always check what is and what is not included in the project costs (accommodation, food, flights, visas, vaccinations?) – request a breakdown if necessary
- **The organisation:** Is it a Charity/For-profit organisation? Are you happy with what your money goes towards?
- **The place:** Check that the conditions are such that you would be happy to live and volunteer there
- **Health:** Check with your GP – what vaccines do they recommend? Are you in good health for the project?
- **Insurance:** Does the organisation provide this? If not, make sure you have the appropriate travel cover
- **Training:** Will you feel totally prepared for what you are being asked to do?
- **Selection:** Are there selection criteria for volunteers? If not, why not?

#### Useful links

It can be hard to differentiate which organisations are sending volunteers for ethical reasons and those that see an opportunity to make a profit - here are some useful pages that can help you find an opportunity that suits you

Volunteer England: [Overseas volunteering advice](#)

Guardian article: [Seven questions you should ask before you volunteer abroad](#)

LSE website: [Advice on overseas volunteering](#)