



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATIONS IN SCOTLAND

A DIRECTORY

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CHALLENGES WORLDWIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission statement	CWW's mission is to support international development by a) sending skilled professionals to work with local civil society organizations, governments and businesses seeking positive change overseas and b) spreading social innovation through a network of partners. By working with skilled volunteers who undertake short-term consultancy assignments, CWW aim to build the capacity of local delivery partners overseas, so that they can be more effective in meeting the needs of their communities. CWW learn from the work of partners and volunteers and share good practice and innovation. CWW work with partners around four themes within the broader context of international development - Health, Livelihoods, Human Rights and Environment.		
Address	54 Manor Place, Edinburgh, EH3 7EH	Contact Name	Eoghan Mackie
Website	www.challengesworldwide.com	Email	info@challengesworldwide.com
Host countries	Bangladesh, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Ghana, India, Serbia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, St Lucia.		
Date organisation formed	1998	No. of volunteers placed last year	75

PROGRAMME TYPES

Length of programmes	6 weeks to 6 months. CWW also run Employer programmes which start at 2 weeks.
Professional criteria	Graduate level educated, professional skills and working experience. Legal professionals PQE+1
Personal criteria	Dynamic, adaptable, flexible, friendly, good sense of humour! global awareness
Work placements available	Capacity building and organisational strengthening; Strategy, business planning, management, finance, fundraising, communications and marketing, project management, HR, legal, IT, administration, research; Minimal service delivery

SUPPORT

Pre-departure training	Intensive 2 day training course plus comprehensive pre-departure briefings;
Ongoing placement support	Each volunteer will be assigned an Operations Manager who will also be involved in their recruitment and pre-departure preparation. Weekly reporting system between volunteer and Operations team plus mid and end placement appraisal for both volunteer and delivery partner feedback. 24 hour support line from CWW staff. All volunteers are also assigned an in-country placement leader, and CWW currently has an in-country programme manager in Sri Lanka.
Returned volunteer support	Full debrief session with Operations team. References provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Funding of organisation	Project and core funding from Trusts and Foundations, Corporate sponsorship, Employer programmes and volunteer fundraising. Depending on programme, individual volunteers are required to fundraise, by gaining sponsorship or support from employers to contribute to costs.
Application procedure	Applications recommended minimum 2 months prior to departure. Apply with CV and cover letter. Telephone interview in first instance, if successful interview in person follows (Edinburgh or London)
Special schemes	Direct (individual) applications; Employer programme; University partnership programme
Unique selling point	Short-term opportunities for Professionals to share their skills and make a practical contribution to international development. Because assignments are focussed on capacity building, volunteers make a sustainable difference as well as experiencing a rewarding way to use and build their own skills.

IVS-GB (INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission statement	IVS aims to promote peace, and intercultural understanding through volunteering and international voluntary projects.		
Address	Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh. EH2 2PR	Contact Name	Jackie Purves
Website	www.ivs-gb.org.uk	Email	scotland@ivs-gb.org.uk
Host countries	We are part of a world wide network and have branches and partners in some 45 countries. We mainly exchange volunteers in our short-term projects (1-4 weeks), and also offer some long-term opportunities (1-12 months).		
Date organisation formed	1931	No. of volunteers placed last year	166 short-term 3 long-term

PROGRAMME TYPES

Length of programmes	1-4 weeks
Professional criteria	No experience or skills necessary, can be first time volunteers. Some placements in developing countries require over 21s and some previous experience.
Personal criteria	Volunteers abroad can be between 18 - 70 years. Some GB projects take 16 year olds.
Work placements available	Group projects providing practical support to local community organisations or charities, the volunteer projects mainly address issues such as peace and disarmament, disability, north south solidarity, social disadvantage, sexuality and gender, environment, and art, culture and local history.

SUPPORT

Pre-departure training	Preparation days held regionally and information sheets provided
Ongoing placement support	Project coordinators on each project and support from the host branch/partner
Returned volunteer support	Reunion events for return volunteer

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Funding of organisation	Membership fees, donations and fundraising, participation fees, Trusts
Application procedure	Application by application form and motivation letter. Volunteer applications can be approved within 2 weeks.
Special schemes	N/A
Unique selling point	Short term, very low costs and group projects - often used as a stepping stone to other overseas or domestic volunteering.

LINK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT			
GENERAL INFORMATION			
Mission statement	Our mission is to improve the potential of disadvantaged people in Africa to gain meaningful employment by sharing and developing appropriate skills through education and training. We believe that education is a basic human right and fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty.		
Address	Third Floor, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH7 5SJ	Contact Name	Catherine McKenna
Website	www.lcd.org.uk	Email	scotland@lcd.org.uk
Host countries	South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia		
Date organisation formed	1989	No. of volunteers placed last year	approx 50
PROGRAMME TYPES			
Length of programmes	Global Teachers Programme: 15 months (5 weeks in Africa) Link Schools Programme: 1-5 years		
Professional criteria	Teachers and Schools Criteria for involvement in programmes is available in full detail from LCD		
Personal criteria	Criteria for involvement in programmes is available in full detail from LCD		
Work placements available	Working in school as part of Link Community Development wider programme of work on school development and teacher training with in-country Ministry of Education and local groups		
SUPPORT			
Pre-departure training	2 intensive weekend training placements		
Ongoing placement support	Supported by LCD staff in country for duration of placement		
Returned volunteer support	2 intensive weekend training placements		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
Funding of organisation	Scottish Government, DFID, EIS, and LCD fundraising		
Application procedure	Global Teachers Programme: Full application form and assessment day: October-January Link Schools Programme: Application form: all year		
Special schemes	N/A		
Unique selling point	LCD works in partnership with the Ministry / Department of Education to improve the quality of education in rural schools in Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, Ethiopia and Uganda. The key intervention we deliver is a 'whole district development' project where we work in partnership with the district education office to improve the quality of education in all schools. To do this, LCD has staff based in district offices that have a close relationship with district officials and with schools. This enables us to offer 'serviced' school partnerships (the Link Schools Programme) and effective teacher placements (Global Teachers Programme), which impact on Southern school development as well as Northern development education.		

LINK OVERSEAS EXCHANGE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission statement	Link Overseas Exchange aims to promote understanding and partnerships between communities in Scotland and India, Sri Lanka and China at a grass-roots level. Through its volunteer programme for 17 to 25 year-olds, whereby their skills and interests are put to practical use, young people gain a greater awareness of issues in the developing world and bring this understanding back to their communities in the UK.		
Address	25 Perth Road Dundee DD1 4LN	Contact Name	Vicky Greaves
Website	www.linkoverseas.org.uk	Email	info@linkoverseas.org.uk
Host countries	India, Sri Lanka, China		
Date organisation formed	1992	No. of volunteers placed last year	57

PROGRAMME TYPES

Length of programmes	6 months (this includes 4-6 weeks of travel time)		
Professional criteria	Formal qualifications are not necessarily required, although a reasonable level of English is necessary. We look for skills such as music, drama, sport and arts and crafts. A positive and enthusiastic outlook is essential.		
Personal criteria	Young people aged 17-25 years-old. The majority comes from Scotland but we have also had volunteers from Holland and Ireland, as well as from all parts of UK. Applicants should show enthusiasm and commitment to volunteering.		
Work placements available	Teaching conversational English informally in a variety of settings – social welfare centres, orphanages, schools, boys and girls homes, hospitals.		

SUPPORT

Pre-departure training	Compulsory four-day intensive pre-departure training course including 2-day TEFL workshop and meeting with former volunteers who have been at their placement. Fundraising event organized and assistance with fundraising given.		
Ongoing placement support	There are local representatives in each country who meet volunteers on arrival and provide support and advice during their placement. Volunteers are visited by a member of staff from Scotland about a month after arrival.		
Returned volunteer support	Each group of volunteers attends a Feedback Day where they have the opportunity to share and evaluate their experience overseas. Volunteers fill in questionnaires and write a report about their time overseas. References can be provided.		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Funding of organisation	Link Overseas Exchange is a registered charity. Volunteers raise £2750 towards the cost of their placement. The charity receives funding from trusts for specific projects, such as Training Centre in Sri Lanka, following Tsunami.		
Application procedure	There are departures in February and August each year. Applicants normally apply about 9-12 months before departure although later applications may be accepted. We can send out information packs or applicants can apply online. They then attend an Information / Assessment Day, references are followed up and an offer made if appropriate.		
Special schemes	N/A		
Unique selling point	Cost includes flights (ATOL protected), visas and insurance, food and accommodation as well as training and support. Volunteer applications are sought from a broad spectrum of backgrounds.		

PROJECT TRUST			
GENERAL INFORMATION			
Mission statement	Project Trust enables school leavers to spend a whole year volunteering in Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Our approach encourages volunteers to develop their full potential while immersing themselves in a new community and sharing their skills and interests. We are unique because our volunteers spend a full twelve months living and working at their project.		
Address	The Hebridean Centre, Isle of Coll, Argyll, PA78 6TE	Contact Name	Ali McDonald
Website	www.projecttrust.org.uk	Email	info@projecttrust.org.uk
Host countries	Honduras, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Mauritania, Uganda, Malawi, South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Namibia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, India, Malaysia		
Date organisation formed	1967	No. of volunteers placed last year	198
PROGRAMME TYPES			
Length of programmes	12 months		
Professional criteria	Due to the age, nothing really. We do look for a certain level of academic achievement (not v. high) or a real strength in a certain field, eg. Music, sport, art, dancing etc.		
Personal criteria	School leavers aged 17-19 (ish) from UK & Ireland as well as some W European countries (in the past Holland, Germany & Norway) Basically, those that show some drive, some level of motivation and commitment to tasks taken on		
Work placements available	TESOL, teaching (primary & secondary), conservation, social care, journalism, outward bound		
SUPPORT			
Pre-departure training	One week long residential selection course followed by a week long training course, again residential. Fundraising workshops are also held around the country		
Ongoing placement support	There is an overseas representative in each country where we work who are there to 'meet and greet', run an induction course upon arrival and provide general help, support and back-up throughout the year. As well as this there is a designated member of staff to support them from Scotland and who will make a visit to their project during the year.		
Returned volunteer support	Upon return from overseas all volunteers are invited to a residential debriefing course to talk through their year with staff, 90% of whom are themselves returned volunteers. Our returned volunteers often liaise with in order to return to their old schools to talk with younger students as well as working together in our volunteer support network		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
Funding of organisation	As a registered charity our vols fundraise £4480 for the 12 month placement and we then raise a further £500 per vol to top this up.		
Application procedure	The initial application form can be sent in or completed on line and following receipt of this we send out information packs and invite the candidates onto a selection course. These run from August – February with a view to go overseas the following August. Selection can be booked immediately but departures are fixed for August. Vols must attend their country's training course before departure.		
Special schemes	We are affiliated with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and our selection course and time spent overseas fulfill the residential and service requirements, respectively, for the gold award.		
Unique selling point	We are the longest running gap year charity in the UK and the only one offering young school leavers a full 12 months overseas.		

SKIP GLASGOW

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission statement	SKIP (Student For Kids International Project) is a student led registered charity (1099804) working to support child welfare and the personal and professional development of healthcare students.		
Address	C/O SKIP Glasgow SRC John McIntyre Building University Avenue Glasgow G12 8QQ	Contact Name	Rosalyn Carroll and Lynda Weir
Website	www.skipkids.org.uk	Email	skipglasgow.committee@googlemail.com
Host countries	Malawi		
Date organisation formed	July 2006	No. of volunteers placed last year	53

PROGRAMME TYPES

Length of programmes	3-6 weeks
Professional criteria	Healthcare students
Personal criteria	Honest, enthusiastic, keen to work with children, able to work in a team, global awareness
Work placements available	Working at Chikonde and Mphatso Orphan Care Centre in Area 25, Lilongwe, Malawi

SUPPORT

Pre-departure training	Training sessions held over 2 weekends and several evenings, covering: Child protection, First Aid, Language Lessons, Health, Education and play. Work in subcommittees and teams to develop specific areas of the project in Lilongwe
Ongoing placement support	Support from fellow volunteers and SKIP Glasgow committee members, both in Malawi and in Scotland
Returned volunteer support	Formal review sessions to discuss any issues. Information provided on where volunteers can receive external support if required

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Funding of organisation	Bulk of volunteer costs funded independently – input from Scottish Executive IDF. Project costs met through fundraising events
Application procedure	Applications downloaded for Summer 2008 from www.skipkids.org.uk . Application deadline was 11 th November 2007.
Special schemes	N/A
Unique selling point	SKIP Glasgow is the first SKIP charity in Scotland.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS ABROAD (SVA)			
GENERAL INFORMATION			
Mission statement	1. to work with local organisations on sustainable projects for the relief of poverty 2. to promote awareness and education, amongst students, of the social and environmental issues that affect the developing world 3. to promote cultural links and encourage cultural education for both parties		
Address	Student Volunteers Abroad John McIntyre Building University Avenue GLASGOW G12 8QQ	Contact Name	Mairi McLennan
Website	http://www.gla.ac.uk/clubs/sva/index.html	Email	sva_uk@yahoo.co.uk
Host countries	Cambodia, Ecuador, India, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, South Africa		
Date organisation formed	1998	No. of volunteers placed last year	82
PROGRAMME TYPES			
Length of programmes	4-10 weeks		
Professional criteria	Although SVA is open to anyone in the Glasgow area, it is mainly advertised at Glasgow University and so volunteers are usually students here		
Personal criteria	Team player, motivated, dynamic, able to use initiative, patient		
Work placements available	HIV awareness, environmental awareness, teaching, working with street children, working with disabled children, construction		
SUPPORT			
Pre-departure training	First aid, teacher, HIV/sexual health, ethical awareness, health talks, weekly meetings with coordinator who has generally volunteered on the project before. These are to cover cultural training, knowledge of project activities, etc.		
Ongoing placement support	Co-coordinator in country (often volunteer from previous year) NGO support – most NGOs provide excellent support in country and many also provide an orientation period with introduction to culture and language differences volunteers will face.		
Returned volunteer support	Evaluation forms and feedback meetings with SVA board members		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
Funding of organisation	Fundraising activities, sponsored events, coffee mornings, ceilidhs etc. Also grants and donations from charitable trusts and businesses.		
Application procedure	Application form, selection day (group activities and interview with the coordinators from the applicants chosen project(s))		
Special schemes	N/A		
Unique selling point	Small voluntary student run organisation. All money fundraised is spent directly on project costs and volunteers can see where their money is being spent. As everything is done by volunteers this cuts out salary costs.		

VOLUNTARY SERVICES OVERSEAS (VSO)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission statement	VSO is an international development charity that works through volunteers. Our vision is a world without poverty in which people work together to fulfill their potential. Instead of sending food or money, we send women and men from a wide range of professions who want the chance to make a real difference in the fight against poverty. These volunteers work in partnership with colleagues and communities to share skills and learning and achieve positive change together.		
Address	Thorn House 5 Rose Street Edinburgh EH2 2PR	Contact Name	Suzi Darcy/Michele Turner
Website	www.vso.org.uk	Email	enquiry@vso.org.uk
Host countries	Over 30 countries, mostly in Africa and Asia.		
Date organisation formed	1958	No. of volunteers placed last year	836 volunteers for long term placements 348 volunteers on short term placements 180 Youth Exchange Volunteers

PROGRAMME TYPES

Length of programmes	2 weeks to 2 years		
Professional criteria	The qualifications and experience that we require from our volunteers varies greatly depending on the programme and on the specific role.		
Personal criteria	Each VSO volunteer is evaluated on the following personal criteria: Positive and Realistic Commitment; Commitment to Learning; Practical Problem Solving Ability; Flexibility and Adaptability; Self Assurance; Working with Others; Sensitivity to the Needs of Others.		
Work placements available	The range of jobs is vast, and includes small business advisors, teachers, social workers, health professionals, management consultants, marine biologists, accountants and farmers.		

SUPPORT

Pre-departure training	Comprehensive training takes place both before the volunteer departs and after their arrival in country. Pre-departure training takes 7-16 days.		
Ongoing placement support	The local VSO office organizes in-country training and briefing. The overseas employer provides the volunteer with professional support and guidance, complemented by conferences, workshops and distance learning.		
Returned volunteer support	On return, each volunteer receives a fortnightly listings of jobs in development and the public sector. VSO also offers volunteers access to careers advice days or one-to-one consultations with trained advisors. Each returning volunteer is invited to attend a debriefing weekend with fellow returning volunteers.		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Funding of organisation	VSO covers all the costs for the volunteer. Our financial package for volunteers includes: Salary – a modest living allowance paid by the employer; Return flight - to the volunteering country; Accommodation – provided by the local employer; Medical and travel insurance cover - for the duration of the volunteer's employment; National insurance contributions – is made by VSO on the volunteer's behalf. Although it's not always possible to contribute to a pension scheme while the volunteer's away, VSO offer a measure of compensation, calculated at £40 per month. There are special arrangements in place for NHSScotland volunteers under the terms of its unique partnership with VSO. See below under 'special schemes' for more information		
Application procedure	VSO makes sure that each volunteer is adequately prepared and expertly matched to the right job before they go overseas. It usually takes between 4 and 12 months from first applying to actually getting on the plane.		
Special schemes	VSO Business Partnerships (VBP) is a secondment scheme which allows partner companies to release their employees to take up short term assignments with VSO. These employees utilise their		

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	<p>business and management skills to assist organisations and communities throughout the developing world. NHSScotland/VSO partnership – an unprecedented and innovative partnership has been launched by the Scottish Executive between VSO and NHSScotland to encourage skilled health professionals to take up 2 year placements in Sub-Saharan Africa. HR policy has been embedded in NHSScotland together with funding to ensure continuity of pensions arrangements and existing terms and conditions. Placements will be dealt with similar to secondments and NHSScotland staff will be recognized and rewarded for their vocational humanitarian commitment. For more info go to:- workinginhealth.com or email catherine.hewit@vso.org.uk</p>
Unique selling point	<p>VSO's distinctive competence is the contribution of international volunteering to development. Focus for Change, our strategic plan, sets out our change agenda, at the heart of which is working more programmatically. This means focusing all our efforts on achieving specific development priorities within the framework of six development goals. These goals reflect internationally-agreed development targets, our partner organisations' priorities and areas where we know that VSO can be most effective.</p>

WORLD EXCHANGE			
GENERAL INFORMATION			
Mission statement	To transform communities and individuals through the international exchange of volunteers; to be an exemplar of training and support for volunteers; to broaden access to international volunteering opportunities to communities who hitherto have been excluded for economic or social reasons; to redress the North-South and the rich-poor imbalances in international volunteering; and in all this, to send volunteers who will immerse themselves in a new community "looking upon it as a place of residence and not simply of work" [G.Gutierrez]		
Address	St Colm's International House, 23 Inverleith Terrace, Edinburgh EH3 5NS	Contact Name	Bobby Anderson
Website	www.worldexchange.org	Email	we@stcolms.org
Host countries	Scotland, Malawi, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Palestine, Cuba, Guatemala		
Date organisation formed	1976	No. of volunteers placed last year	30 one year, 150 short-term
PROGRAMME TYPES			
Length of programmes	One year, six months or visits of 4-6 weeks		
Professional criteria	All ages from 18 to retired and fit. Personal qualities are our key indicators of suitability and this is assessed in our selection days. Previous commitment to volunteering in Scotland is desirable. We have worked successfully with candidates whose "personal criteria" include heroin abuse and imprisonment, as well as with highly qualified QCs and Chief Executives.		
Personal criteria	We reject the idea that volunteering is only for "professionals". We ask our Church partners if they can use the skills a potential volunteer would bring. So there is no restriction on professional criteria. Outdoor instructors, musicians, gardeners, teachers, community workers, accountants, managers, and nurses are normally requested. Offers of skilled mediators, architects, puppeteers, festival directors, and accordionists have also been welcomed by host communities.		
Work placements available	Accountants, micro-business advisers, tourism projects in Malawi.		
SUPPORT			
Pre-departure training	Interviews with expert staff, residential training course in two parts (normally 3 days each part) Individual pre-departure interview. Our "Training, Advice and Support Service" for volunteers and visitors is based at St Colm's in Edinburgh and can be accessed by any groups or individuals.		
Ongoing placement support	Provided by local line manager e.g. Headteacher or medical superintendent. WE field staff as back up where appropriate. Church network means extensive local support.		
Returned volunteer support	Interview with staff on return. Returned Volunteers debriefing weekend in Scottish highlands normally attracts 80% of RVs.		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
Funding of organisation	Volunteers are expected to contribute towards their costs.		
Application procedure	The right time for each person. Long enough for them to be sure it is the right decision and short enough to get them where they can be useful as quickly as we can.		
Special schemes	Core work is in projects run by churches, which means the volunteer goes straight into a strong civil society organisation.		
Unique selling point	The Churches in the developing world are major providers of education, health care and community development. We work primarily in that context. 30 years of experience; growing commitment to improving the ratio of north (N) to south (S) to S to N and S to S volunteering; we provide support		

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	<p>for local volunteering initiatives; supported projects in Malawi and India, with support for independent volunteers globally; open “Training, Advice and Support Programme” for volunteers and visitors is based at St Colm’s in Edinburgh and can be accessed by any groups or individuals. Last year this was accessed by 15 groups, including clients from London, Midlands, and US.</p>
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OTHER INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATIONS IN SCOTLAND

NAME OF ORGANISATION	WEB ADDRESS
Edinburgh Global Partnerships	egp.eusa.ed.ac.uk
Vine Trust	www.amazonferry.com