

# > Press Pack



*help...  
learn...  
explore!*

## Projects Abroad in brief

As part of an ever global world, we at Projects Abroad recognise the importance of learning about different cultures, getting real-world experience and making a difference. We believe that there is no better way to improve yourself while helping others than by participating in a Projects Abroad placement.

Our volunteers work in challenging situations that require cultural understanding, creativity and initiative. Volunteers also learn from their placements and the people they meet, and they gain valuable experience. We believe this mutual respect is what cultural exchange is all about.

Projects Abroad is an international volunteer organisation with its UK Office in Goring, Sussex. Projects Abroad offers a wide variety of volunteer placements and work experience in various fields like teaching, community work, medicine, conservation and journalism. Our goal is to provide volunteers with the opportunity to live and work in developing countries in a way that is both convenient and safe for the volunteers and positive for the countries themselves. Since being founded in 1992, Projects Abroad has sent over 60,000 volunteers to 29 different countries on 5 continents.



## Our background

In the early 1990s some students wanted a break from study - a 'gap year', although the term wasn't yet in common use. They approached their Geography lecturer about travelling and working in Eastern Europe. The lecturer, Dr Peter Slowe, had difficulty finding any opportunities for this kind of travel combined with work experience, so he set about arranging for his students to go and teach English in Romania, where he knew some fellow academics. This was how Projects Abroad began in 1992.

Until 1997, we were a small organisation with two part-time staff sending university students for work experience teaching placements in Eastern Europe. But with more and more people taking time off from school and work - and with many developing countries in need of self-funded volunteers - our organised volunteer programmes have mushroomed around the world. Our volunteers now do a lot more than just teach English!



## Some of our achievements in numbers

These numbers show a few of our achievements up to now. They do not do justice, though, to the wonderful work done by so many Projects Abroad volunteers who have given up their time to work overseas in the last 22 years, but we thank them all.



## Memberships and partnerships



Projects Abroad is a founding member of the Year Out Group. This is an association of independent UK-registered organisations of various sizes, one of whose principal activities is the provision of high quality structured programmes in the UK or overseas.

The programmes they offer are designed for young people taking time out between school or college and higher education or employment. Members agree to adhere to a Code of Practice.

Many organisations offer programmes but there are no guarantees that these organisations provide useful, structured and supervised projects. Therefore the more established organisations formed the Year Out Group.



[www.yearoutgroup.org](http://www.yearoutgroup.org)

## What the volunteers say....



*I worked in a number of different settings, including Old Fadama, the biggest slum in Accra, the Girls Correctional Centre and Legal Aid Scheme. I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of my placement and was privileged to work alongside a number of great volunteers, supervisors and professionals. The time I spent in Ghana was the best I have ever had. My placement gave me the opportunity to engage in work and experiences that I would not have been able to otherwise. My experience reconfirmed that this is an area in which I wish to make a future.*



**Sophie Clarke**

Law & Human Rights in Ghana



*My time in Sri Lanka was very memorable and I would recommend it to anybody. I'm studying a nursing degree and the experience in the orphanage has definitely equipped me with skills that I am able to transfer to my practice here in the UK. Everything about the trip was worthwhile, and although not every single experience was completely enjoyable (like changing nappies!) I wouldn't change anything about it.*



**Holly Ovens**

Care in Sri Lanka



*Conservation in developing countries has to be developed with local communities, working with the people. Taricaya is the first project I have ever worked on that actually advances in these things successfully. You can be proud of having such a project, run by people with visions and realistic dreams as well as the knowledge of how to move things on in a country like Peru".*



**Lisa Schuler**

Rainforest Conservation in Peru



## What the host families say....

*We are proud to be looking after foreigners and teaching them about our culture. Getting to know people from different cultures is very interesting.*



**Mr and Mrs Wulff and Molly Yankey**

Host parents in Ghana



## What the overseas staff say....

*Volunteers can make an important contribution through our projects and add to the process of cultural exchange that is so crucial to ensure a bright and prosperous future for all.*



**Saad Rbiai**

Director for Morocco



*Our host families working in Cochabamba have proved more than just a host family. They are now our friends and our community and we cherish each and every mother, father, sister and brother as they kindly welcome the volunteers into their home.*



**Carmen Herbas**

Director for Bolivia



**WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO RETURN EACH YEAR WITH AMAZING STORIES OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR CASE STUDIES.**

## Contact information

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