

Do you have information on volunteering opportunities overseas?

We don't hold info here as the world of overseas volunteering is a bit of a minefield. There are some pretty unscrupulous companies out there who charge lots of money for their programmes, so we advise students to check out the following sites before going and we are happy to check out any potential projects if asked. One of the main factors we look at when recommending any company/project is their volunteer policy on working with the local people and how the funding benefits those you are volunteering with – trust me there are loads that give little or nothing to the community, or do not hire local guides/workers to assist with the activities. That is a bugbear of ours!

Check out the following web-sites as a starting point – do get in touch if you have any questions about specific companies/groups and we will do our best to help out.

www.wse.org.uk World Service Enquiry provides independent information to people who want to volunteer or work in international development and aid.

www.ethicalvolunteering.org Advice & information for people who are interested in international volunteering and want to make sure that what they do is of value to themselves and the people they work with.

www.yearoutgroup.org A great web-site that has loads of info and advice (has a section for parents and guardians which is very informative!) on gap years and volunteering. All the companies they work with have signed up to a Code of Practice and a member's charter. Year Out Group hold details of all the companies' risk assessments and other info.

www.do-it.org.uk Database of overseas opportunities. Also has info and advice sheets. Good tool to search for activities – we advise people then do their own checking on the opportunities offered if interested.

www.concordiavolunteers.org.uk Great company. They offer short term and long term activities all over the world. For most of the projects there is a compulsory training session that must be attended prior to going overseas, which is a great way to meet people and acclimatise.