Embarking on an International Adventure

Volunteer Internships Abroad
# Table of Contents

Top 10 Reasons to Take Your Internship Abroad ......................................................... 3

International Volunteer Internship Options ................................................................. 5

Internship Abroad Checklist ....................................................................................... 6

Choosing the Right Partner Organization Rubric ......................................................... 7

Outreach360 Camino Fact Sheet .................................................................................. 9

Outreach360 Sustainable Development Philosophies ................................................. 11
Gain hands-on work experience. Regular internships don’t always give you the opportunity to jump into the work in a hands-on way. Service internships are different. Not only will you get the chance to actively participate in the direct-service work, but you’ll be expected to do so. You will be able to use your knowledge and expertise to really make a difference.

Join the international community. The world is more connected than ever before and being able to work comfortably within the global community does not go without notice. That is just one way that participating in an internship abroad will set you apart.

Refine your foreign language skills. An estimated 60-75% of people in the world speak more than one language. Chances are that you do too. There’s no better way to practice a foreign language than to do so with native speakers and an internship abroad will offer you exactly that opportunity.

Make connections. You’re likely to meet many interesting people coming from every kind of background during your internship abroad. Making those new connections will become a big part of your experience. Don’t be surprised if you come out of the internship with new friends and more opportunities.

Apply your studies to an experience outside of the academic world. When you’ve lived most of your life inside schools and classrooms, it can be hard to picture yourself practicing what you study. Well, whether you’ve studied humanities or the natural sciences (or somewhere in between), you’re sure to be able to apply your knowledge to your service internship and gain invaluable experience in return.
Inspire the people in your life. It’s no small thing to decide to move abroad for a few months and dedicate your time to serving others. Your decision to participate in a service internship will inspire the people in your life. Your time abroad may even empower them to do the same.

Step outside of your comfort zone. Internships are meant to stretch and challenge you and a service internship abroad is no exception. Staying in and serving a community different from your own is sure to push you more outside of your comfort zone than ever before! The best part is that you might even find you like living outside of your comfort zone...

Discover yourself through service. The magical part of being stretched and challenged is the growth that follows. New experiences that confront your opinions and perspective allow you to view yourself and the world in new ways. Be prepared to discover new sides of yourself in this experience! We think you’ll like what you find.

Be adventurous. Life is too short to spend it wondering and asking yourself the “what ifs...” Now is always the time to be bold and jump into something new and different. You’ll never regret the new experiences, memories and friends and you’ll never forget the impact this internship will have on your life and the lives of others.

Make a difference in the world. It doesn’t matter whether you’re young or old, experienced or new to the service world. By participating in a service internship, bringing your talents and passions to the experience, and by being open to learn in return, you are going to make a difference in this world.
Learn About Options For Your
Volunteer Internship Abroad

So, you're passionate about serving abroad and you want to find an internship that both interests you and will allow you to make the biggest difference. Now what? Here are some insights, tips and suggestions on what to look for and how to get started.

Types of Service Internships

Although ideal, paid internships are almost impossible to come by these days and free internships abroad can be hard to find. If you're interested in an internship that incorporates service work in underserved communities overseas, you'll likely be expected to donate to support the organization's work and vision. Be sure to find an organization that practices sustainability and works where the need is greatest. You'll know your donation, in addition to your work, will make a big difference.

There are so many ways to make a difference in the world and many organizations will have multiple and specific areas of focus through which you can work. Here are just a few of the most common areas of service available:

**Education** – Teaching, especially teaching English, is the most popular way to serve abroad. It is also where the greatest need is at and what is most typically requested by the communities and populations in which organizations and non-profits work. It's the obvious choice for education majors but is not limited to people with a teaching background. If you speak English, are passionate about making a difference and willing to learn, teaching abroad is the choice for you.

**Marketing/Communications** – If you have experience or knowledge in marketing and communications, you can make a big difference for organizations and non-profits abroad. Using your skills to involve more people in the cause will have more of an impact than you know.

**Leadership** – Most non-profit organizations abroad will have fully-trained staff who are experienced in hospitality, sustainability and local culture. They are essential to facilitating a positive and powerful experience for their volunteers and the communities in which they serve. An internship in non-profit leadership is both unique and full of opportunity.
Choosing an international internship can be a smooth sailing process and partnering with the right organization can ensure you are taking a turn-key approach to making a difference in the world. Follow the checklist below to get your internship started:

☐ **Choose an organization** to work with and get acquainted with its programs (see our rubric on the next page for some guidance on what to look for when choosing the right organization for you).

☐ **Choose a program and apply** to the one that appeals most to you. You may have to go through an interview process. Don’t hesitate to ask questions concerning time, expectations and opportunities for growth.

☐ **Figure out the logistics** There are often a lot of logistics involved when moving abroad for a certain amount of time, even if it is just for a couple of months. That’s why you’ll want to have chosen an organization that makes it easy for you. Be in communication with them to make sure you have all your bases covered before traveling.

☐ **Fundraise** If the organization you choose to work with asks for a program donation, fundraise, fundraise, fundraise! The people in your life are going to be excited to support you with this incredible experience.

☐ **Go serve!** This is what you’ve been working towards. Enjoy your time abroad and soak up as much as you can.

☐ **Reflect** Experiences like this one won’t come every day and that’s why this is going to be something you’ll take with you for the rest of your life. Give yourself the time and space to reflect once you complete your internship.
Choosing the Right Organization For Your Service-Learning Trip

There are a lot of amazing organizations out there for you to choose from for your international volunteer internship, and some that may not be aligned with your goals. The following is a rubric put together for future interns like you to review specific criteria to consider when choosing a partner organization along with information about how Outreach360 matches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Standards</th>
<th>What Outreach360 Offers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Outreach360 housing is modest, yet comfortable. It is included in the cost of the minimum program donation and is arranged for you in advance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing provided on-site that is suitable for a family. Low or no cost.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Outreach360 considers your family's safety to be a top priority. We follow several practices to ensure your volunteer experience is a safe one with no extra cost to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides powerful experiences in a secure environment while utilizing safe practices. Included in cost.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Site Amenities (Food, Housing, Ground Transportation)</td>
<td>Housing, meals and ground transportation are all included as part of your minimum program donation with Outreach360. We have trained cooks, drivers and our own facilities to keep you healthy and safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has or is flexible in arranging meals, housing and ground transportation at an affordable rate or included as part of a &quot;full package&quot; price. These services are provided through local businesses and are sustainable.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Health is a primary concern for many volunteers traveling to developing countries. That's why Outreach360 makes your health a priority throughout your service time with us. Some of the ways in which we keep our volunteers healthy include having trained leaders available around the clock, Outreach360 trained cooks, an endless supply of bottled water, mosquito protection, accessibility to professional clinics and common sense guidelines. Outreach360 also provides personal medical/travel insurance for each volunteer at no extra cost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attentive staff members who are trained to be able to respond to a medical emergency. Access to clean drinking water, pharmacies/first-aid kits and adequate healthcare should an issue occur. Include insurance in their program costs or can recommend a plan or service.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suggested Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Accessibility</strong></td>
<td>Program is accessible to any volunteer coming down to serve. Volunteers powerfully insert themselves into the program, regardless of age, skill set, ability or experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language and Communication</strong></td>
<td>Staff that can communicate over the phone, via email and in person both in English and in the language of the region in which they serve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Need</strong></td>
<td>Organization works to meet pressing and immediate needs where they are greatest and in a sustainable way. The emphasis is on development and empowerment and moves away from relief-based work that creates an unmanageable dependency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specificity</strong></td>
<td>Organization involves and promotes dialogue with local community and its members to excite participation and interest. Vision, mission and beneficiaries are clearly defined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaboration</strong></td>
<td>Organization prioritizes mutually beneficial relationships within the community. Understands service to be a two-way street that cannot exist without collaboration - sharing responsibility, authority and accountability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainability</strong></td>
<td>Organization is not filling a role or service that could be otherwise provided locally, but rather is creating and supporting opportunities for growth. The community is excited to work side by side with volunteers and sees value in the organization's function within the community. Offers a program that is continuous and consistent despite the “revolving door” nature of its volunteers program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reorientation</strong></td>
<td>Organization involves and promotes dialogue with local community and its members to excite participation and interest. Vision, mission and beneficiaries are clearly defined.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Outreach360 Caminos Program offers powerful semester-long and summer service-learning internships that focus on education in order to give disadvantaged children a life of choice. As a Caminos Volunteer with Outreach360, you will work in the Dominican Republic or Nicaragua, where the each country’s rich culture and history contrasts sharply with the extreme poverty of the outlying communities. In the socially conservative communities where we work, Caminos Volunteers play a critical role teaching English or Spanish Literacy at the Outreach360 Learning Center, while developing skills in international teaching, effective leadership, global citizenship, and cross-cultural communication.

When not teaching or supporting Outreach360 programs, Caminos Volunteers learn about the local culture through activities and excursions organized by Outreach360. A critical component of gaining global awareness and understanding effective development, is learning about both the beauty and complexity of the country where you are serving. That’s why we plan activities to enable Caminos Volunteers to experience authentic culture and real-world immersion. Whether you are learning about traditional indigenous pottery, or indulging in some of the local traditional food, Outreach360 cultural activities offer you a deeper understanding of the community you are serving.

The Outreach360 Caminos Program is about much more than the power of education or the wonder of experiencing another culture. It’s about transforming lives. And, as you work to transform the lives of the children we serve, you will discover that in the process they have transformed yours.

Outreach360 is an amazing organization that is one of the purer non-profits I have come across. There is fantastic balance of work/play, and the experiences, not only with the kids, but also with the other volunteers, will change you for the better.”
- Kristen McApline
Villanova University

**BENEFITS**

- Gain international teaching experience.
- Learn about education and sustainable development.
- Strengthen your leadership skills.
- Immerse yourself in challenging and diverse environments.
- Develop global awareness and intercultural communication skills.
- Experience a new culture by living in a developing country.
- Enhance your Spanish.
- Take an active role in impacting the lives of disadvantaged children.
Accommodations
The Outreach360 facilities in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic are located in safe residential areas with convenient access to the center of town and the lively local culture. Families share simple, comfortable rooms with modern bathrooms, along with communal areas ideal for relaxing or visiting with other volunteers. Meals served at the Outreach360 home base include both local favorites and North American classics prepared by our professional staff. Plenty of clean, purified drinking water is always available.

Health & Safety
The health and safety of our volunteers is our number one priority! Since 1994, our more than 22,000 volunteers have enjoyed a safe experience with Outreach360. Our professional and reliable program has always ensured volunteer security, allowing you to focus on serving.

Eligibility
Caminos Program Volunteers must be 18 or older, and willing to immerse themselves in a new culture and develop their Spanish. Candidates must complete the on-line registration form, and an interview with Outreach360 staff.

Cost
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Week Summer Program</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Week Summer Program</td>
<td>$3,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Each additional week beyond 8 weeks is $125
- $100/week extra for construction/agriculture programs as an additional material fee.
- The program donation is tax-deductible for US tax-payers and includes housing, all meals, insurance, and ground transportation.
- Volunteers are able to raise the program donation using their personal Outreach360 fundraising page.

Cultural Experience

- Learn about the history and culture of the children you are serving with talks by on-site staff.
- Experience the culture by sampling local cuisine or participating in a Latin dance lesson.
- Enjoy breath taking scenery with excursions to local places of interest.
- Discover the human spirit in a developing country.
- Practice cross-cultural interaction and communication.
- Enhance your Spanish by practicing with local children.
- Break away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Program Includes
- Professional staff and leadership team.
- Complete orientation and training upon arrival.
- International medical insurance.
- Ground transportation.
- Housing and meals.
- Group activities.
- Cultural excursions.
- Direct service projects.

How to Register
Visit the Outreach360 webpage and complete the online application to reserve your spot. www.outreach360.org

Copyright © Outreach360
Don’t do for others what they can do for themselves
In our generosity, it’s very easy to start to do things for other people that they could do for themselves. We want to create an environment where we are empowering people, not disempowering them.

De-Emphasize Materialism
Americans and Canadians often see the poverty of material things in the areas where we work, and want to fill the need by collecting and giving away things – baseballs, clothes, food, toys, etc. The people we are working with will get along without all our “stuff”, and will probably be better off without it. At Outreach360, we want to be alert to the poverty of opportunity, and fill those gaps. We feel the best way to do that is through education.

Focus on Relationships
We also want to focus on person-to-person relationships in the areas where we are working. We are committed that the children look forward to seeing the volunteers not for the stuff they bring, but for the education they provide and the relationships and interactions that are made possible.

No Poor People/Two Way Partnership
As generous as it seems, it is actually very arrogant and condescending to travel to the Dominican Republic or Nicaragua to “work with the poor people, or the poor children”. The people we work with are very alive, vibrant, intelligent, dynamic, and capable. They are rich in many areas where Americans and Canadians are poor. Look beyond the material poverty. We are there to serve, and usually they are there to serve as well. It is a two way street, the intercambio (interchange) of the different cultures is a very important part of our program.

Best Tools for the Job
We want to strive to provide our leaders with the best training and tools available to empower them to do their jobs in an effective manner. When implementing programs at our Learning Centers, we balance the desire to be efficient with our purpose of releasing the hero within and desire to promote cultural interchange. Hiring only degreed and certified ESL teachers at our Learning Centers might be the most efficient way to teach, but encouraging a high school team to teach one on one to our students better releases the hero within and promotes cultural interchange. It might be a less efficient teaching process, but it better fulfills our purpose.
Meet Real Needs
We avoid “make work” for our volunteers. We work to meet real needs in the communities where we work with the unique resources of the volunteers who join us. We believe the number one need that our volunteers can meet with their unique resources is in the area of education.

Cultivate a Service Mentality
American and Canadian societies are two of the most generous societies in terms of volunteerism. This is not a natural thing, it has been promoted and cultivated over many years. We are not shy about sharing this aspect of our culture with the communities where we work, and we will work to promote a culture of volunteerism and service. A child who benefits from our program will be expected to also serve in our program.

Involve Local Resources
A desire of Outreach360 is to involve local resources in the work that we are doing, not just as paid workers and vendors, but also as volunteers and partners. Long term, our direction is that our programs will be administered and managed by local people, perhaps the children growing up studying at our Learning Centers. We will honor all volunteers and people working with Outreach360 by maintaining high expectations and standards in all that we do.

Relief vs Development
A relief organization is one that exists to serve for a very short time, in the event of a catastrophe or emergency – when people urgently need food, clothes, medicine, shelter. A development organization works more long term, to provide a more lasting change. Outreach360 seldom serves as a relief organization, passing out food, clothes, etc. – only in the case of a temporary local emergency. Our efforts are long term, focusing on education to make a lasting change.

Living a Life of Choice
The Outreach360 Learning Center program’s purpose is to enable the children we are working with to live a life of choice – to graduate high school qualified to choose to attend college or obtain gainful employment in an occupation of their choice. The United Nations validates this purpose in this report:

“Human development is about much more than the rise or fall of national incomes. It is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. People are the real wealth of nations. Development is thus about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value. And it is thus about much more than economic growth, which is only a means—if a very important one—of enlarging people’s choices.”