

QUICK FACTS



REMUNERATION: Unpaid

DURATION:

Spanish Course: min. 4 weeks

Volunteer Program: min. 4 weeks

LEAD TIME: 3 months

START DATES: Every Monday
All year round

LOCATIONS: Guanajuato



Accommodation (not included in the program fee):

During Language Course:

- Homestay OR
- Shared Student Flat

During the Volunteer Placement:

This will be arranged after your arrival in Mexico as the locations of the projects differ; this way it will be possible that you continue in your existing accommodation or move to accommodation closer to your project. You should have access to finances to cover these costs — see below for prices.

Homestay (Half board):

Single Room: US\$205 / week

Double Room: US\$180 / week

Included: laundry service once a week, towels, bed linen.

Shared Student Flat:

Single Room: US\$195 / week

Double Room: US\$170 / week

Included: blankets, bed linen, access to fully equipped kitchen & laundry room, shared bathroom, shared TV, cleaning service once a week in communal areas, central heating, gas costs.

Volunteer Program

The volunteer program is exclusive to Guanajuato in Mexico. A small and peaceful university city, Guanajuato seems tailor-made to welcome students willing to learn Spanish. You will find yourself enchanted by the stunning architecture and by the culture that breathes in every nook and cranny of this alluring Colonial beauty.

The volunteer program is for people interested in learning about sustainable solutions to poverty, encouraging educational pursuits, preserving cultural heritage, and conserving the environment. All volunteers will work in partnership with the local people in a variety of community-based projects. As a volunteer you take on a serious commitment when you start work in an institution. We strongly advise you to remain flexible when choosing your preferred volunteer program as they can change at short notice, and indeed, new programs are added continuously. On application you can choose the project category (see below) and during the language course you can select the exact project.

The available projects fall into three categories (see next page for details):

- Social Projects
- Educational Projects
- Cultural Projects

Every Volunteer Program starts with a minimum of 4 weeks Spanish classes (4 hours of Intensive Spanish classes each day for 5 days a week + a cultural activity after the classes. If you are a complete beginner, you may need to do a longer course to ensure that you will have the required intermediate level for the volunteer placement.

Application Requirements

Age: 18+	Language: Minimum of 4 weeks of Spanish course (an intermediate level of Spanish is required after completion of the course)
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Initial Assessment Documents

Curriculum Vitae	Letter of Objectives
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Application Documents

Completed and signed Application Form & Terms and Conditions	Copy of valid passport (valid for whole duration of the internship)	Payment of application fee
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Placement Process

Official Volunteer placement confirmation & Payment of placement fee
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Accommodation & Travel Arrangements

<u>Accommodation Options:</u> 1. Homestay 2. Shared Student Flat (not included in program fees)	<u>Visa Options:</u> No Visa required	Book your flight and arrange your medical & travel insurance (not included in program fee)
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Program Fees

Application Fee: AU\$500

Placement Fee: US\$940 (4 weeks Spanish + 4 weeks volunteering)

Volunteer Program Details

SOCIAL PROJECTS

1) Infant Development Centres

These welfare centers dedicate themselves to the personal development of infants while their mothers are at work. You will work as a teaching assistant, developing leisure activities for the children (arts & crafts, body expressions, etc).

2) Psychosocial Risk Prevention

This program develops activities directed at curbing risks to adolescents and children. You will have direct contact with the children by creating and running workshops/conferences and giving presentations on topics such as addictions, awareness, prevention of child pregnancies and the promotion of children's rights.

3) Street Children Project

This project helps children and adolescents from the streets integrate into mainstream society. You will have direct contact with the children by creating and running workshops and giving presentations on topics such as addictions, awareness, prevention of child pregnancies and the promotion of children's rights.



4) Elderly Care Project

This program offers the older generation a series of locations and activities designed to guide and support physical and mental health. Volunteers will help with the organization and running of occupational activities with the elders in order to help to develop their self-esteem and personal development.

5) Rehabilitation Clinique

This project aims to offer rehabilitation in terms of language and hearing, education and physical therapy. The volunteers participate in activities and provide support to the therapists, and can perform administrative duties in areas such as creation, updating and handling of patient files.

6) Sexual Health Information Centre for Women

The center aims to advance and defend the sexual and reproductive rights of women and youth in Guanajuato. Volunteers participate in workshops and talks about prevention of sexual diseases, support in the accomplishment of socio economic studies, in prevention campaigns and fundraising etc.

7) Domestic Violence Shelter

This hostel attends to women and child victims of domestic violence. The volunteers can help by participating in psychotherapy sessions, campaigns against domestic violence and workshops designed to teach about child care and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy.

8) Urban Health Center

This public center offers free primary health attention and aims to promote and raise awareness of infantile vaccination, cancer, diabetes, AIDS etc. Volunteers can participate in administration tasks, act as support to the nurses and doctors in their campaigns, or in the organization of workshops and conferences about preventing sexual diseases and unwanted pregnancy.

9) Refuge for elders

The center provides support, health care and treatment to elders with little or no economic resources or families. Volunteers can participate in daily care activities and as a means of support to the permanent staff. They can also help with fundraising.

10) Casa Hogar del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús

This is an independent religious organization that cares for and supports abandoned children or those who live in extreme poverty. Volunteers help with the daily care of the children, offering attention, care and support with school work, and will also be on hand to help with the upkeep of the building and with the fundraising events.

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

(Through the local University / School)

1) Language School (Dept. of Schooling Materials)

Volunteers help to provide educational support in terms of language practice for studying at degree level and take part in lessons, administration or organization of activities.

2) Department of Physical Education and Sport

This department provides the university students with a wide range of spaces and activities in the different sport branches. Volunteers will participate in the support of the creation, promotion and control of the sporting activities amongst students (tournaments etc.) and of the promotion of sport culture and physical health.

3) Federal School 'Benito Juárez'

This public school provides secondary education and as part of the daily curriculum, the teenagers receive classes in English as a foreign language. Volunteers can provide academic support to the English teachers and students, and in curricula and extra-curricula activities. They can also take part in organizational and educational meetings.

CULTURAL PROJECTS

1) The International Cervantes Festival

This is the most important cultural festival in Mexico. Each year it offers a variety of cultural activities such as concerts, theatre performances, exhibitions etc. Volunteers can help with customer support, cooperation with other volunteers in fields of administration and organization. Common languages to be used include Spanish, English, French, German or Italian.

