

InterVol Volunteer Role Description and Person Specification



Project	ZOV, Bulgaria
Date reviewed	November 2018
Purpose	The aim of this volunteer position is to help in family centres and day centres, including those for disabled children, in Bulgaria as care and activity assistants.
Working with	ZOV Bulgaria, www.zov.org.uk
Location	Bulgaria, Veliko Tarnovo and surrounding area.
Post duration	2-4 weeks (negotiable)

InterVol are looking for new volunteers to join this year's team of students, travelling overseas to make a difference to the communities and partner charities we work with.

InterVol

Since 2003 over 650 student volunteers have taken part in international projects through InterVol and our long-term partner organisations. Our volunteers have provided more than 100,000 hours of hard work and £250,000 of funding, focusing on community development, conservation and poverty reduction projects.

InterVol want to maximise the long-term impact that student volunteers can make by focusing on initiatives that contribute to the capacity of non-governmental organisations and communities. We want to provide ethical international volunteering opportunities that are accessible and rewarding for students with appropriate skills to make a strong contribution overseas.

Role Description

InterVol volunteers provide a valuable contribution to our overseas partner organisations. They give their time and skills to increase the capacity of organisations at peak times of the year as well as raising valuable funds to support to sustainability of the projects all year round.

This project is in conjunction with the charity Zov, which is a registered charity both in the UK and in Bulgaria. Volunteers help in family centres, including those for disabled children, across Bulgaria as care and activity assistants. This project is one of InterVol's longest standing projects and has been running successfully since 2004.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Volunteer - You will travel out to Bulgaria to work in family centres and day centres for 2-4 weeks, exact time and duration is to be negotiated with the host charity during June-August. As this project works in a range of different children's centres the age and abilities of the children vary. In some placements you might be organising sports and other outdoor activities, or for example art or drama, in others the children will be less able and less active, and so your work would be interacting with the children and supporting the staff with work around the centre. The project works during the summer holidays in Bulgaria where the centres are under more strain and need support.

Fundraising - Each project team commits to their fundraising target that contributes to the local project. Funds raised will support year-round mentoring of children at the centres by ZOV volunteers. All funds are spent on the project itself. Volunteers cover the costs for their own travel, insurance, training and accommodation expenses.

Develop your skills – You are expected to either have skills and experience related to work with children or be prepared to work to gain and develop these in the UK before you travel overseas.

Attend training - You will attend the required training, both at your university and the national InterVol training day, to make sure you are prepared and appropriately-skilled to work on your project. You will need to obtain a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to volunteer on this project.

Person Specification

InterVol need volunteers who are ready to give their time and energy. We ask volunteers to join with a willingness to learn and a desire to help others.

Essential

- Volunteering experience - this is not essential at the time of applying. If you haven't volunteered before InterVol can provide guidance on how and where you can volunteer in the UK before you go on your project. We will recommend projects that develop your relevant skills in preparation for your overseas project.
- Experience of supporting and running activities for children.
- Resilient - we are asking volunteers to work in unfamiliar countries, often living in basic accommodation. You need to be up for the challenge!
- Willing to give your time, your energy, your compassion. These are all crucial ingredients to a successful project and volunteer experience.

- Good communication skills - you need to be able to talk to people, often with very different backgrounds and cultural norms to you. We expect volunteers to learn at least basic language skills of their project location to assist their work.

Desirable

- International development - understanding of key humanitarian and development issues such as poverty, health, education and environmental issues. Particularly those facing the region you are to work in.