

InterVol Volunteer Role Description and Person Specification



Project	Care4Calais
Date reviewed	September 2019
Purpose	To provide direct aid to refugees living in intolerable conditions, along with providing support and interaction in the Secours Catholique day centre.
Working with	Care4Calais, www.care4calais.org.uk
Location	Calais and North East France
Post duration	3-4 weeks

InterVol are looking for new volunteers to join this year's team of students, travelling around the world making a difference to the communities and partners 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 young 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.

The Project

'Care4Calais is a volunteer-run charity delivering essential aid and support to refugees living in the worst conditions across Northern France, Belgium and Italy. We believe in a fair and tolerant British society and advocate for a welcoming and inclusive attitude towards refugees in the UK.'

Care4Calais Mission Statement

There are still over 700 refugees in Calais. Many of them are sleeping rough and require direct aid on a weekly basis. As part of the Care4Calais project you will help to organise and distribute food, clothing and other essentials to refugees. You will also provide much needed support in terms of social interaction, teaching and anything else you may have to offer.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Your day will start at 9.30am where daily tasks at the warehouse are set, responsive to the needs of the refugees. This can include sorting donations, creating medical packs or organising food. Then after lunch you will drive to centres to distribute the aid and talk to the refugees. This could be helping with issues they are having, or just providing social interaction in the form of a game of football or just a chat over a hot cup of tea. The majority of the refugees in Calais have fled war and dictatorships and are now forced to live in terrible conditions, so general health is low. One of the most important aspects of volunteering for Care4Calais is providing moral support for the refugees, documenting their conditions and spreading the word!

Care4Calais also run a day centre in Secours Catholique in Calais. The day centre provides a safe space that refugees can interact and engage with volunteer-run activities. You can choose to either support other volunteer run activities, or if you have a particular skill you can run your own!

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 skills in preparation for your overseas project.
- Experience of supporting and running activities for any age group.
- Resilient - volunteers will be work with refugees in very vulnerable situations.
- 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 (in this case French, though you will mainly communicate in English at C4C).

Desirable

- International development - understanding of key humanitarian and development issues such as poverty, health, education and environmental issues.
- . An understanding of the issues faced in the Calais jungle, the drivers of the refugee crisis, and an interest in working with and supporting refugees.
- . Willingness to engage in physically demanding labour in the warehouse.