

ICYE FINLAND WORK PROFILE 2018-19



WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER IN FINLAND!

We are happy that You are interested to come and experience ICYE voluntary work period in Finland! This is the Work Profile of MaaIlmanvaihto – ICYE Finland. It has been made in order to give you an idea of the different types of voluntary work placements the ICYE program can offer.

You will find from this profile general information on ICYE voluntary work in Finland as well as examples of possible voluntary workplaces. Please keep in mind that the profile does not hold all the projects, and not all the projects in the profile are hosting volunteers each year.

In the matching process we do our best to take into account your preferences but we cannot guarantee a place in any particular workplace or area in Finland.

VOLUNTARY WORK IN FINLAND

Most ICYE voluntary work placements within Finland are in the field of social work and education. Social work in this context means, for instance, child welfare institutions and work among elderly people and people with special needs. The voluntary work is mostly done in non-profit organisations and institutions. Social work in Finland is mainly carried out by the government and municipalities, but there are also many active non-governmental organizations in this field, too.

In social work placements the most important thing for a volunteer to have is a positive attitude and motivation for voluntary work and for learning new things. In addition, previous experience, interest in social work and some knowledge of English (or Finnish) will make it easier to find a social work placement for you. Especially in the beginning of the period and for a person without a special profession or experience, the work is often quite practical.

On the other hand, the work tasks depend a lot on the volunteer's own initiative! There is usually an opportunity to shape the work tasks according to your interest and skills. So, please **be active yourself and make suggestions** on how to develop your tasks during your voluntary work period!

Most of the workplaces are situated in the countryside, and the public transport connections to nearby towns and cities may not be very good, so it may not be easy to go to the city very often. But anyway, one of the most important parts of the experience is to get to know the culture through the local community. There nevertheless are also some workplaces in the capital city Helsinki and smaller towns.

YOUR SKILLS, INTERESTS AND PREFERENCES

We do our best to find you a workplace where you can use your skills and learn. Please read through carefully which types of voluntary workplaces are available in Finland and send us then **the Preference List** with information on which types you are interested in. The information you give us through the Preference List is important for us in the search for the best possible voluntary work place for you. You can find the Preference List from our website.

In the Preference List form you can also give us more information on your skills and experiences. It is our aim that the voluntary workplace can benefit from your contributions.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF VOLUNTARY WORK PLACEMENTS

These are different types of voluntary work placements that Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland coordinates:

A) CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTION

Child welfare institutions include different kinds of organizations, but usually ICYE volunteers work in foster homes. Foster homes are created for socially excluded children who are taken into custody from their biological parents because of drug and alcohol abuse or mental and social problems. The ages of the children vary from toddlers to teenagers.

The community provides the children with care, social education and home-like, safe environment for growing. Most foster homes in Finland work in close co-operation with cities and municipalities which finance and monitor them.

The volunteer participates in the daily activities of the foster home, supporting the staff and the children. Volunteers spend time with the kids giving them a possibility to learn from their language and culture. They organise free-time activities for them and also help in household tasks like cooking and cleaning. It is also possible that the volunteer creates for the children activities such as sports, arts and languages.

B) FOLK HIGH SCHOOL

Folk high schools are boarding schools for mostly young adults aged from 16 to 30+. These folk high schools provide different types of study programs and courses from arts to languages and open university studies. Folk high schools are good options for young people who want to spend their "gap year" efficiently and to study something, which will improve their possibilities in further studies. Many folk high schools also provide Finnish language studies for immigrants and refugees to support their adaptation process.

Most of the folk high schools are situated in the countryside. This provides excellent opportunities for social development and learning from the Finnish culture directly from the Finnish youth. A good motivation and active initiative taking are a necessary for a successful voluntary work period in a folk high school.

The volunteer work tasks vary according to the volunteers' skills and interests: from assisting teachers, giving language courses and organising free-time activities for the students to practical work like helping in the kitchen, library, office or gardening and maintenance work. Sometimes it may be possible to combine voluntary work and studying some subjects in the folk high school. In some folk high schools the volunteers work with immigrant students who study Finnish language and culture.

C) KINDERGARTEN

Kindergartens are day-care centres for children (aged between 1 and 6 years) whose both parents work during the daytime. Volunteers help the staff in the daily cores such as playing with the children, helping the kids in eating and dressing outdoor clothes and cleaning the kindergarten. We have found the kindergartens to be the best places to learn the language!

Some volunteers have been placed in English or Spanish language kindergartens or to kindergartens using special pedagogic methods, like Montessori or Steiner. Volunteers who work in a kindergarten are accommodated in host families.

D) OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

Old people's homes are organizations that take care of elderly people, who are not able to live on their own anymore. These homes offer accommodation, care and daily activities for them. Usually the elderly live in the rooms of one or two people, and the houses also include common rooms for all the inhabitants. Usually these homes aim at creating a homely atmosphere.

The volunteers help the staff in daily work tasks, such as assisting the elderly in dining and providing them with different daily activities. It is important that the volunteer is motivated to learn Finnish, since the old people often do not know English.

E) SCHOOL / EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

In the Finnish elementary school there are 9 grades (with the possibility for the extra 10th grade) and the children are aged from six to sixteen. Most of the schools in Finland are run by the government. Some schools are interested in hosting volunteers in order to create for the pupils a possibility for intercultural learning and practising a foreign language.

The volunteers assist the teachers in the daily school work and also help the staff in other tasks like organising international days or other happenings. Some of the volunteers are placed in other educational institutions, such as schools for students with special needs (physical or mental disabilities) and vocational schools.

F) WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Some of the work placements offer education, work and accommodation services for people with special needs. There might be people with developmental, mental and/or physical disabilities and challenges in learning. Volunteers work, for instance, in day activity centres, schools, arts&crafts workshops and communities.

The voluntary tasks with the disabled people depend on the type of workplace in which the volunteer is working. Work can be very practical: helping the people in their everyday duties, such as dining, but at the same time there are opportunities to assist in different types of therapy, art classes, handicraft workshops, agriculture, garden work, animal care, etc.

Work with the people with special needs can be challenging and requires some patience especially in the beginning – but it is also very interesting and rewarding. It is important that the volunteer is motivated to learn Finnish since the disabled people often do not know English.

G) YOUTH WORK

Youth work is work that aims at supporting the growth of the young people and advancing their active citizenship as well as intergenerational interaction and social strengthening. In the youth work field volunteers may, for instance, organize free-time activities for youngsters in a youth center. It is important that the volunteer is social and takes actively contact with the kids.

H) OTHER WORK PLACES

Some projects do not fall into any of the above mentioned categories. There are, for instance, some cultural projects, non-governmental organisations and local voluntary centres offering a voluntary work placements.

ABOUT THE PREFERENCE LIST

Please, fill in the "PREFERENCE LIST" form and give it to your sending ICYE organisation. You can find the Preference List from our website. We do our best to find you a suitable voluntary work placement. The more you tell about your interests and personal skills, the more likely the placement meets your wishes.

We nevertheless CANNOT guarantee you the placement you have chosen and we want to remind you that the wishes are not binding. They only give us an idea on what kind of work you are interested in. We encourage the work placements to contact you and have Skype meetings with you so that you can have more information on each other and confirmation that your expectations meet.

When you get the information on your voluntary workplace from ICYE Finland, please contact the workplace prior to your arrival to Finland! We will provide you with contact details. Contacting the voluntary workplace is important in order to get a clearer idea of the place you are going to: if you have any questions, you can ask them from your mentors. It is also nice to get to know each other in advance.

EXAMPLES ON VOLUNTARY WORKPLACES

On the following pages you will find examples on voluntary workplaces with which we cooperated with. Usually each workplace hosts one ICYE volunteer at a time but in some cases there may be two ICYE volunteers at once.

Whether all of the workplaces take a volunteer in the season 2017–18 depends on various factors, such as their financial situation and availability of accommodation. For projects which cannot offer accommodation, ICYE Finland needs to find a host family before we can confirm the placement for the volunteer.

1. School of Kirkonseutu (school)
2. Lepola's Kindergarten (kindergarten)
3. Fallkulla Domestic Animal Farm and Youth Center (farm work, youth work)
4. The English Kindergarten of Kotka (kindergarten)
5. Kainuu College (folk high school)
6. Mi Casita (kindergarten)

1. SCHOOL OF KIRKONSEUTU

WORK FIELD

School / Educational institution

VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

The school of Kirkonseutu (*Kirkonseudun koulu* in Finnish) is a public elementary school with about 280 pupils, 15 teachers, four special teacher and eleven school helpers / teacher's aide.

In the school there are classes for children aged at 6–12 years (preschool education and basic education). There are also special classes for children with special educational needs.

The school is located close to the center of Nakkila and near to the sports area.

Website: peda.net/nakkila/kirkonseudun-koulu

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers mainly work as teacher's aide. They in particular assist the teacher in classes. They can also prepare teaching materials and crafting as well as introduce for the pupils their home countries and interests. With the volunteers the pupils get to practice English. International perspective and contacts are very important for the school, and in their tasks the volunteers get experience on teachers' work.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers should be active and motivated to work with kids. Good communication skills are valued.

LOCATION

The school is located in a municipality called Nakkila in the southwest Finland. There are about 5 700 inhabitants in Nakkila. The school is located in the countryside. The nearest city is Pori which is situated some 20 km away from Nakkila.

ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. During the working days the school offers lunch for the volunteers.



2. LEPOLA'S KINDERGARTEN

WORK FIELD

Kindergarten

VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Lepola`s kindergarden (*Lepolan päiväkoti* in Finnish) is a public kindergarden in Jokela. It is situated next to a school with which the it works in close cooperation. The staff of the kindergarden includes thirteen persons. There are four groups in the kindergarden, and the children are aged 1 to 6. There are about 75 children in the kindergarden.

The kindergarden gives quality early childhood and pre-school education. It takes care of children and makes them safety basic treatment. The staff does that that together with parents and specialists, for examples psychologists and speech therapists. Physical and psychic safety is a value of the kindergarden. The kindergarden also tries to make days peacefull and unhurry to children, and child-orientation is very important in the activities of the kindergarden.

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteers work as an assistant in a group with children aged from 3 to 5. They also help the staff to organise daily routines of the kindergarden, such as setting the table, bed-making, clothing arrangement and children`s plays and games. We can offer for the volunteers a possibility to experience of finish daycare and our way to do this work. We can teach them some methods of the day-care.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The volunteer should have good interaction skills and be motivated to work with kids. We hope that volunteer will be interested of children and Finnish day-care system. We also wish that volunteer is motivated to learn about the local culture environment and about the way to be with children. We hope that the volunteer is spontaneous and brave to meet new challenges.

LOCATION

The kindergarden is located in Tuusula which is a municipality situated in the Southern Finland. The municipality is very rural and sparsely populated. It is a home for over 36 000 people. The kindergarden is situated in Jokela which is the northern centre of Tuusula, situated some 40 km away from the capital of Finland, Helsinki. There is a train connection to Helsinki. It is a community constructed in garden-city style; its industrial history is linked with an old brickyard. Several lovely pools are a remnant of the brickyard tradition.

ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. In workdays the volunteers can eat lunch in lunchroom with children and co-workers.

3. FALLKULLA DOMESTIC ANIMAL FARM AND YOUTH CENTER

WORK FIELD

Farm work, youth work

VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Fallkulla Domestic Animal Farm (*Fallkullan kotieläintila* in Finnish) is the only municipally owned youth centre in Finland where young people can take part in practical work with livestock. Fallkulla was established in 1989. Fallkulla gives young people aged 9–17 the opportunity to tend sheeps, pigs, goats, cows, hens, ducks, rabbits and horses as well as the chance to participate in various activities with the youth. Fallkulla is run by Helsinki city youth department.

Website: www.fallkulla.munstadi.fi



VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

There are various tasks for the volunteers, such as feeding the animals, cleaning the barn and stable, milking the goats, brushing the animals, horseback riding, taking care of the common cleanliness of the cattle shed. Other work tasks include youth work, gardening and other outdoor work as well as office work. The working schedule of the volunteers may include both morning (8 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and evening shifts (1 p.m. – 8 p.m.) as well as working at weekends. The voluntary work period will provide the youth, the staff of the farm and the volunteer with international experience as well as possibilities to improve language skills.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

Volunteer should be interested in animals and their well-fare. (S)he must be in good health and cannot have any allergies (animal, hay or dust). Special skills, such as arts&crafts and music skills, are valued.

LOCATION

Fallkulla is located in northern part of the capital city, Helsinki. There are some 620 000 inhabitants in Helsinki. The farm is situated near the residential areas of Malmi and Tapanila. There is a good public transportation network in the area.

ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family in Helsinki area so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living.

4. THE ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN OF KOTKA

WORK FIELD

Kindergarten

VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

The English Kindergarten of Kotka (*Kotkan englanninkielinen leikkikoulu* in Finnish) offers early childhood education both in English and Finnish for children aged 1–7 years. There are 42 children and 6 teachers in the kindergarten. The kindergarten is run by the Finnish-American Society.



In the kindergarten it is believed that every child is unique. Respecting others and environment as well as good manners are valued. Central to the goals of the kindergarten is providing the children with a chance to familiarize themselves with the English language and culture. The mission statement of the kindergarten is "Together with the parents we want to raise our children in a safe and caring environment that will encourage the children to grow into self-motivated, confident, and co-operative individuals. We believe every child is unique and hope to strengthen his/her self-esteem. We emphasize the importance of good manners as well as important social skills. The children are immersed in the English language through curriculum and play. We hope to instill a sense of global awareness and tolerance of all people." Website: www.kotkansay.fi

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers work and play with the children and assist the teachers in different duties and everyday routines. Work also includes sharing cultural differences and similarities with the staff and the children. Volunteering in the kindergarten offers a chance to improve own skills in English, to learn Finnish as well as to develop social skills and get to know Finnish culture.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers should be able to communicate in English and motivated to work and play with children aged 1–7 years. They should have good social skills.

LOCATION

The kindergarten is located on the south-east coast of Finland in the city of Kotka, about 130 kilometres away from Helsinki. Kotka is a city of about 55 000 people. Local bus connections are rather good.

ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers will live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are served at the kindergarten during school days. Other meals are provided by the host family.

5. KAINUU COLLEGE

WORK FIELD

Folk high school

VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Kainuu College (*Kainuun opisto* in Finnish) is a learning institution and adult education centre that is open to all and offers many opportunities. The mission of the college is to organize general education and vocational training; provide support, inspiration, and services for hobbies and provide guidance in further learning and active citizenship.



There are some 100 students in the college, and the college has some 20 employees: principals, teachers, secretaries, cleaners, youth and leisure instructor... The values of the college are pietism, Kainuu virtues, balanced and active citizenship as well as a safe culture and environment. Website: www.kainuunopisto.fi

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers can (depending on their interests), e.g., study Finnish in our courses and assist in English courses – for instance in lessons that focus on speaking English or using the language in a real situation. They also take part in daily duties, such as duties of the kitchen and office of student affairs, cleaning and working with the host/hostess of the student dormitory. In addition, they participate in planning and organizing student events and happenings. When the volunteer arrives we will plan a schedule together, so that the volunteer will have a chance to participate in planning of their duties.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The language of the college is Finnish, so we wish that the volunteers would be interested in studying Finnish. To assist in English courses they need some English skills. Open mind, social skills, the ability and motivation to work in a new environment with new people as well as positive attitude are requested!

LOCATION

The college is situated in Mieslahti which is a village in the municipality of Paltamo. Mieslahti is located about seven kilometers east of the town center. The village has about 350 inhabitants. The nearest city Kajaani is situated some 29 km away from Mieslahti.

ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a dormitory near the workplace. The room is a single room, but the kitchen and washing facilities shared with others.

6. KINDERGARTEN MI CASITA

WORK FIELD

Kindergarten

VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Mi Casita is a private Spanish language kindergarten. It was established in Helsinki in 1994. The children at the kindergarten are between 0–6 years of age. Mi Casita ry was founded to provide Spanish speaking daycare and to offer cultural knowledge of Spanish speaking countries for children.



The children are mainly Finnish, from Spanish/Finnish speaking families. All staff members are native Spanish speakers. The kindergarten is run by the Parental Association of Mi Casita and it is funded by the monthly fees paid by the parents, support from the City of Helsinki and by other means of fundraising. Kindergarten has around 40 places for children including group of pre-school children. Currently staff includes 8 employees including cook. Website: www.micasita.fi

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers do kindergarten work, such as practical tasks and teaching-related duties. They help and support the other employees in handling groups of children. They play with the children and can also teach them games. They also read to the children, take them out, help them with dressing and undressing from outdoor clothes and help them with eating lunch or snacks. The volunteers take part in all activities of the kindergarten. For example, if the kindergarten visits museums or other public places, the volunteer will help in taking the children there. Depending on the skills and interests of the volunteers, they can e.g. teach the children music or art, organize theatre with them or instruct sports to them.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers should be motivated to work with children and speak Spanish fluently.

LOCATION

The kindergarten is located close to the centre of the capital city of Finland, Helsinki. There are some 620 000 inhabitants in Helsinki. The city is situated in the Southern Finland. Train station is located less than 1000 meter from Kindergarten, also other public transportation are very close.

ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family in capital area so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living.



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