

Teaching Management Plan

Mexico



OVERVIEW

Company Mission

Our mission is to encourage young people to volunteer for worthwhile work in developing countries. We expect that doing this kind of voluntary work will in time become the norm. As more and more people join us, we aim to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve, to learn, to understand, to teach, to inspire, and to be inspired.

Teaching Programme Mission

Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multi-national community.

Background Information

México is a real meeting-place of cultures; a country full of history. American, Spanish and Indian influences all come together to make it a fascinating place that mixes developed and developing worlds. México is a stimulating cocktail of wealth and poverty, colour and vibrancy.

Mexicans are proud of their roots and ancient traditions but also live with the US superpower next door. Therefore, English is very important in this country. Whilst most students attend public institutions (most Mexican families cannot afford to send their children to private school), there is quite a significant disparity between public and private schools in the quality of education provided. This is particularly notable in the level of English taught. Most English teachers in public schools have not had the opportunity to spend time in an English-speaking environment or have not received proper training in the language, so many do not have correct pronunciation and the English taught can be quite basic. Moreover, public expenditure per student is low, meaning there is a serious lack of resources in the public education system.

Therefore, teaching is one of the most useful things that you can do as a volunteer with Projects Abroad.

Partners

In Projects Abroad México, we work with secondary schools such as Secundaria Mixta No. 50 and Secundaria Mixta U8, and with private institutions such as Niños y Adolescentes, a specialised school for children who have not been able to attend standard public school.

We also work with the University of Guadalajara, the public university in the state of Jalisco, and one of the most important universities in México. In the *Universidad de Guadalajara*, we work in two different centres: the CUCS (the medicine centre) and CUCEA (the economic centre) where we can organise Conversation Clubs and workshops to benefit staff and students.

GOALS

In order to work towards our Teaching programme mission, we have set the following goals to achieve in the placements where we send our volunteers:

1. Improve English

This has been the most important goal in Projects Abroad through its history and will be there primary goal in our teaching programme. English is now a universal language used in international business, online communication and media. It is now more important than ever for young people to learn English so they can properly engage in a global community. We aim to develop three main skills areas: reading, speaking and writing. We aim to create an environment which motivates students to learn a different culture and develop self-confidence to express oneself in English. We will achieve this by receiving your help as a volunteer in conversation clubs and workshops, and by shadowing and assisting local teachers in all our placements.

2. Increase literacy

Although México has a relatively high literacy rate (around 93%), this disguises major flaws in the education system, and there remain vulnerable groups that do not have access to this basic education and skills. This is particularly relevant in placements like Niños y Adolescentes and other less organised placements. Reading and writing are essential skills for every person to master. Building these basic skills at a young age can greatly increase a student's ability and interest later on.

3. Improve classroom support

The ratios of students to teaching staff in public schools are the highest among OECD countries and public expenditure per student remains low, limiting resourcesⁱ. Many public schools lack basic teaching materials and many students do not have the means to afford books and learning materials. Volunteers play an important role in the creation of new materials. They also work alongside teachers to help students improve their pronunciation and command of a foreign language and assist with designing presentations, oral/written exercises and even one-to-one lessons. Volunteers can also assist with discipline and divide the classes into smaller groups to give students opportunities to receive more focused attention.

4. Encourage learning through creativity

The best way to learn a new language is making it fun. Creativity is an important tool and a suitable learning environment should be created. This space should provide students with opportunities for interaction in which the acquisition of a new language is seen as a meaningful process and not as a pointless final product. When such an environment is created, students are given the chance to experiment, explore, create and recreate with real imagination and creativity. Volunteers can encourage students to be creative through the creation of flashcards, story-telling and debates around a trend topic, introducing alternative games or activities to interest the group in learning.

RESOURCES

Human Resources	Average 15 volunteers per year Projects Abroad global staff teams Placement staff support
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Physical Resources	Projects Abroad offices Placement materials
Online Resources	Volunteer Resources Database Myprojectsabroad webpages
Financial Resources	Monthly budgets for overall operations Donations to specific projects or placements
Intangible Resources	Reputation in destination communities Goodwill; genuine desire to help Expertise

Projects Abroad provides a range of resources for each of our programmes. These fall into four interdependent categories:

Human: Volunteers themselves are our most crucial asset in achieving our goals. Through their creativity and energy, all of our ambitions can be realised. Another central support team is our extensive network of Projects Abroad staff worldwide, dedicated to supporting volunteers and achieving our company mission. We also depend greatly on the staff in all of our placements; whose support guides volunteers through their daily activities.

Physical: Projects Abroad has offices in all of our destinations, where volunteers can come to speak to staff or attend workshops. There are also office materials and placement supplies available to volunteers.

Online: The Volunteers Resources Database and myprojectsabroad webpages all provide vital support before, during and after their placements.

Financial: Funds for all of Projects Abroad's work come solely from volunteer placement fees. These are distributed via monthly budgets, to ensure fair allocation of funds for each destination. Occasionally volunteers may also send donations directly for a specific placement or project.

Intangible: The good reputation of volunteers in local communities is what makes our work possible. This reputation has been earned over years of dedicated volunteer contribution. This is supported by the combined knowledge of our extensive staff network. With over 700 staff across every continent, we are proud to be a diverse and accomplished team.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement visits Volunteer workshop sessions Staff meetings Volunteer Resources Database Feedback evaluation
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Physical monitoring: Through placement visits and volunteer workshops, volunteers are in frequent contact with staff members, who will observe and advise volunteers in action. Staff participate in regular meetings to discuss best practices within and between destinations.

Online monitoring: The Volunteer Resource Database is platform for staff and volunteers to share and develop ideas.

Feedback evaluation: Feedback from placement staff, Projects Abroad staff and volunteers is continuously gathered and used to inform future plans.

LOCATION OF PLACEMENTS

The city of Guadalajara is the home of Projects Abroad México. Guadalajara is fondly known as the most Mexican of cities: sombreros, mariachi, tequila, and charrería all originated in Guadalajara. The Guadalajara Metropolitan Area is the second largest city in México after México City. It includes the core municipality of Guadalajara and the surrounding municipalities of Zapopan, Tlaquepaque, Tonalá, Tlajomulco de Zuñiga and El Salto. It has an estimated population of 4,298,715.

We also have some projects in Cd. Guzmán, which allow volunteers to experience life in the smaller Mexican town, under the shadow of the great Colima Volcano. Cd. Guzmán is also located in the state of Jalisco.



Projects Abroad				
Teaching programme México				
Guadalajara				
	INDICATORS	MONITORING (MEANS OF VERIFICATION)	ASSUMPTIONS	
Company Mission: (the change we want to see in greater society)				
Our company mission is to make it the norm for men and women from developed countries to live and work as volunteers in a developing country; they should work on projects which have a clearly favourable impact on host-communities. In this way, we will continue to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve and to inspire.				
Teaching Programme Mission: (the change we want to see for the target group)				
Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multi-national community.				
Goal 1:				
Improve English				
	Actions: (the tasks that need to take place to achieve the goal)			
1.1	Create and manage a Projects Abroad Library of English books and materials. Volunteers can sign books in and out for when they use them at the placement.			
1.2	Create a resource centre of flash-cards and other English learning materials			
1.3	Establish a weekly English conversation club. 1 to ½ hour small group sessions on a chosen topic each week.			
1.4	Use creative techniques to help improve the listening and speaking skills of student's e.g. role plays, acting and drama, games.			
Goal 2:				
Increase literacy				
	Actions:			
2.1	Organise workshops with volunteers to help them understand techniques for working with slow learners			
2.2	Allow a regulated time-period per week to implement spelling/pronunciation exercises/reading practice in the classroom.			

2.3	Invite a professional guest speaker once every X months to provide expert advice on how to motivate students to read.			
Goal 3:				
Improve classroom support				
	Actions:			
3.1	Divide class in half or take small groups to relieve pressure on teachers with large numbers of students in one class.			
3.2	Help guide teachers with correct pronunciation and grammar (English)			
3.3	PRO teachers to lead teacher training sessions focused on how to plan lessons, different learning style, positive discipline			
3.4	Maintain a donation barrel for school items to be donated to the school in case of a special need			
3.5	Volunteers to agree with teachers a list of tasks that will support the teacher during the one or two months the volunteer will be there.			
Goal 4:				
Encourage learning through creativity				
	Actions:			
4.1	Volunteers to work with the placements to make learning environments visually appealing and educational to the students e.g. "word of the day wall" –whereby the volunteer displays a new word each day along with a definition and the students are tested on it the following morning			
4.2	Volunteers to do a presentation to their class on their home country.			

ⁱ <http://www.oecd.org/edu/Mexico-EAG2014-Country-Note.pdf>

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