



University volunteer TERMS OF REFERENCE: ToR 29

Preamble:

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development, and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

In most cultures volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, University volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with co-workers, host agencies and local communities.

In all assignments, University volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as University volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

The “**University Volunteer Network**” provides human resources and knowledge resources, through the recruitment of students from partner universities. These volunteers serve for six months in developing countries.

The Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) acts as the coordinating university of the Spanish University Volunteer Network currently comprising 27 Spanish universities. To date, 155 assignments have been carried out. This year, it is envisaged to field 45 volunteers to work towards achieving the MDGs in selected areas of education, health, environment and Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D). The volunteers are to primarily support host institutions supported by UNV’s MDG Facility as well as UN Projects and Programmes engaged in MDGs-related activities. The focus of these assignments will be on capacity building.

1

1. **UNV Assignment Title:** Promoter and Specialist in education for adults
2. **Type of assignment (International University volunteer):** Educational Promotion
3. **Project Title:** Educational projects that support the adult literacy program in the urban and rural area.
4. **Duration:** 6 months
5. **Location, Country:** Guaranda, Bolívar, Ecuador
6. **Expected starting date:** October 2009

7. Brief Project Description:

The project consists in reducing the high level of illiteracy in the province of Bolivar, implementing the Cuban methodology “Yo sí puedo” (Yes, I can). This project takes into account the principles, values and cultural practices of each town, strengthening the cultural identity between the towns and the society in general. There is a strong emphasis in innovating the educational administration through an integral development approach with it’s own identity.

This program was implemented thanks to the Governors’ work, a popularly elected personality. Due to the fact that the authorities have not offered services in education and equality considering that results in this area have not been positive, the program was implemented at the start of 2007.

¹ Instructions for completing this form

- The form should be completed as detailed as possible bearing in mind that the Terms of Reference are aimed at student volunteers and not professionals.
- Host organizations should retain a copy of the form.
- The goal of this form is to provide pertinent information on the qualifications requested in order to recruit the best possible candidate for this student volunteer assignment.



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8. **Host Agency/Host Institute:** Gobierno Provincial de Bolivar, Ecuador (Provincial Government of Bolivar, Ecuador)

9. **Organizational Context:** The Provincial Government of Bolivar is the public body and political representation of the state in the province. The institution has been mainly in charge of infrastructure construction, especially in relation to community work. Since 1997 its actions are geared towards a more integral development approach, concentrating on initiatives like productive projects. Presently, it works in several areas: institutional development, social development, health, education, agriculture, water, environment, small industry and craft, tourism and culture. One of the main objectives of the Government is to transform the province. In order to take on this challenge it has begun a process of internal strategic planning. It is in the process of elaborating the Plan of Provincial Development.

The Provincial Government of Bolivar is one of the main actors with which the ART/UNDP Program works in the province of Bolivar in Ecuador. The Program supports the Provincial Government's work and it articulates actions with them through its territorial mechanisms.

10. **Description of Duties:** The promoter will support the implementation of several education projects in the communities in rural areas and especially in indigenous communities. These projects are based on the literacy of adult people, as well as the creation of educational centres for adults in community sectors.

Volunteers in education can provide assistance in teaching and tutoring. Typically, volunteers in ICT4D can help to develop and set-up websites and networks as well as databases, e.g. through the provision of training. In Panama, volunteers have helped to promote capacity building activities in the area of disaster-related education activities. University volunteers in health have helped to educate and raise awareness among Cape Verdian mothers in HIV/AIDS. In the area of environment, they have developed information material in disaster-related management.

The volunteer will be supporting the following area(s) of the MDGs.

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability

Under the direct supervision of the Coordinator of the Literacy Program and Education for life "Yo sí puedo", Carlos Guerrero, the University volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

- Support in the strengthening of the training centres.
- Promote the development of projects that are guided to recover and strengthen educational practices.
- Promote productive activities to assure educational development.
- Establish a training strategy and exchange experiences in the educational area.
- Gather information about the capacities and educational experiences to guarantee an adequate education.
- Support the construction of education networks at local levels that allow high civil society participation.

In addition University volunteers are encouraged to further promote volunteerism and engage in volunteering activities:

- Strengthening their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and taking active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark IVD);
- Getting acquainted with and building on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country;
- Reflecting on the type and quality of voluntary action that they are undertaking, including participation in ongoing reflection activities;
- Assisting with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived University volunteers;



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- Promoting or advising local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encouraging relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.
- Contributing articles/write-ups on field experiences and submitting them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
- Working with the civil society to promote an active participation of each of the participants.
- Supporting in the information of civic *veedurias* that allow to watch over the execution from the right to the education at local level.
- Building relationships with local institutions, groups and individuals that support or participate in local initiatives with the purpose of promoting solutions in education topics.
- Promoting and mobilizing the partners of the work team, facilitators, the members of the community and all the social actors that work in the project, to be an active entity in the development of the education.

11. Results/Expected Output:

- Community organizations with capacities improved in education for the development in society.
- High participation of the civil society in topics related to the education and literacy in the areas of the project.
- Volunteer groups that support and promote the importance regarding the right to education.
- Work towards the improvement of the quality of regular education at all its levels.
- A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for development during your assignment such as specific quantification of mobilized volunteers, activities, capacities.

12. Qualifications/Requirements:

- **Education:** Diploma in Teaching and basic professional experience in this field
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Specific skills in requested area (e.g. related to education, health, environment or ICT4D):**
Basic knowledge in first aid
- **Computer/software skills:** Basic knowledge

14. Other information:

A) Visa

Please specify type of visa needed for nationals from Spain to enter your country:

- Tourist visa (if yes, return ticket needed)**
- No visa or visa upon arrival at airport**
- Visa before departure:**
- Diplomatic Visa**

B) Accommodation

- **Location of assignment:** Guaranda, Bolivar, Ecuador
- **Nearest airport:** Guayaquil and Quito airports



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- **Type of accommodation:** Provincial Government of Bolivar will support the volunteer in the search of a house in the town of Guaranda and will offer all the possible facilities to the volunteer.
- **Approximate monthly cost of accommodation:** 130 \$US dollars.
- **What other facilities will be offered to the University volunteer(s)?** Provincial Government of Bolivar will offer the volunteer an office with the necessary equipment to on the necessary duties.

C) Local transportation

- **Means of local transportation for the volunteer:** Provincial Government of Bolivar will offer the volunteer transport so that he can move around the province.
- **Approximate monthly cost:**

15. Conditions of Service

Monthly volunteer stipend (intended to cover housing, basic needs and local transport), equivalent to EUR 683 per University volunteer; visa fees, life and health insurance; return airfares.

Date: 10/03/2008