ESSEX ABROAD

VOLUNTEER WITH ICS

What: Volunteering abroad
Where: 20 countries including: Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe
When: Summer
International Citizen Service (ICS)

International Citizen Service (ICS) is a once-in-a-lifetime, UK government-funded programme providing volunteer placements to 18-25 year olds and Team Leader placements to 23-35 year olds. It’s a development programme that brings together young people from the UK and developing countries to volunteer in some of the poorest communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

UK volunteers work side-by-side with local volunteers in developing countries, staying with host families in the local community.

ICS isn’t a holiday. It’s demanding but hugely rewarding. It’s a great opportunity for personal development, a stepping stone to future careers and a chance to make your world a better place.

The programme is led by VSO in partnership with a hand-picked group of respected development organisations. They each offer structured support and training to help and guide you before, during and after your overseas placement.

You don’t need cash, skills or qualifications to apply for ICS – just the ambition to make a difference.

Website: [http://www.volunteerics.org/](http://www.volunteerics.org/)
Partner organisations ICS works with: [http://www.volunteerics.org/our-partners](http://www.volunteerics.org/our-partners)
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPMBK5UP3S0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPMBK5UP3S0)

Volunteer role

ICS makes the most of the unique contribution young people can bring to development—passion, energy and the ability to reach other young people.

All of the ICS projects are carefully planned to be sustainable and focussed on long term impact. Placements are always part of a wider development programme, where objectives are set in partnership with communities.

- **Earn a decent living**
  ICS works with businesses and enterprises to help them grow so they can provide a fair income and one day employ others and improve the local economy. They also run projects that help build people’s skills so they can get jobs. They believe that everyone should be able to earn a decent living and become self-sufficient, because no one wants to rely on charity or aid. A secure income is the first step to ending the cycle of poverty and building the local economy.

- **Get a good education**
  More and more young people are getting the chance to go to school, but some people are still excluded – by poverty, gender or because of their religion or background. Their projects encourage more young people to attend school, but also make sure they are included once they are in school. ICS helps children develop life skills as part of their education – like teamwork, leadership and confidence.

- **Get the information and services they need to stay healthy**
  ICS volunteers are ideally placed to reach out to other young people, particularly on issues like sexual health. Their projects also focus on making sure people have decent toilet and washing facilities, which can hugely reduce sickness and diarrhoea.

- **Live in a fairer world**
  ICS want to make sure that people around the world know their rights and can make their voice heard. This issue affects some groups more than others — children and young people, women and disabled people are just a few examples. ICS volunteers help people to know their rights and have the confidence to influence those in power.

- **Protect their environment**
  Climate change will affect the world’s poorest the most. Extreme weather and natural disasters – like drought and flooding – are likely to increase as the world gets warmer, and poor communities struggle the most to cope with these events. Their projects support communities to protect their environment for the future, and to adapt to the effects of climate change. Many ICS projects will work in more than one of these ways and every project is different.
Eligibility criteria

- Dates 18-25 year olds can volunteer
- 23-35 year olds can be Team Leaders
- Have to be UK, EU or EEA citizen
- No qualifications required

Dates

- All year round – summer dates available
- Placements last from 10-12 weeks
- Apply as soon as possible – summer dates are very popular

How much?

*Fully funded by government but you have to fundraise £800 to take part!

Deadline

- No fixed deadline - apply as soon as possible – summer dates are very popular.

Ready to apply?

1. Apply via directly via ICS website: https://goo.gl/3QCQoS
2. Please note these placements are very popular and you have to submit a strong application. Check out our ‘How to write a killer personal statement for your international experience’ leaflet for excellent tips!

Want more info?

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