



## GAP ACTIVITY PROJECTS

### About the Organisation

Established in 1972, GAP Activity Projects is an educational charity, registered in the UK that has over 30 years experience providing volunteer projects to more than 25,000 young people around the world.

GAP Activity Projects is committed to providing a distinctive experience for any young person through a journey of discovery that fosters independence helps others and promotes global understanding.

Last year GAP Volunteers contributed over 1 million hours of valuable work assisting people to learn English, building up educational facilities in developing countries, educating children about the environment, or assisting someone with a disability reach their potential.

GAP is a journey, it is an opportunity for people aged 17-25 to volunteer overseas, broaden their horizons and make a difference. GAP Volunteers are not tourists. They immerse themselves in a culture and become members of their community. They learn about a country from within.

GAP currently offers projects in 16 countries around the world.

### Project Information: GAP Activity Projects

#### *Caring*

Of all the work that a GAPper can do, caring is probably the most rewarding. You could be working with the visually impaired, with orphans, the elderly, or adults with physical, mental or intellectual disabilities; helping at a community centre for the homeless or working in small villages of people with Down's Syndrome. There's a huge variety of placements under the 'Caring' banner, with most placements involving work with adults between the age of 18 and 40. You may be asked to organise recreational activities, help with the cooking and serving of meals, or entertain with music, art or sport. Sometimes resources are scarce, so you'll have to use your imagination. You'll need to show patience and discretion in building relationships. Adults and children with disabilities sometimes need your help with personal care too – feeding, washing, dressing, toileting – and with physiotherapy, art, games, music and excursions.

Whilst each project has distinctive features, the maturity and depth of experience that a GAP Caring placement offers you is constant. You don't need previous experience, you won't be in charge of residents on your own, and the qualified care staff will perform most of the nursing duties. You just need to be committed, patient and sensitive to others. Your hosts will give you full training and support.

**Countries:** Argentina, Canada, Germany (need Year 12 German), Malaysia, South Africa, UK/Ireland

#### *Teaching*

Most Schools (Teaching) placements will be teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) in primary schools, secondary schools, or universities. TEFL placements are many and varied - there are different teaching methods, levels and ages, class sizes and resources available. Some schools will want you to use your initiative, while others will have a curriculum to follow. Each country has a different approach to teaching the English language. For the most part, you'll be teaching conversational English, with possibly some grammar. As a native English speaker you will be highly valued; everyone will be keen to improve their English skills.

You don't need prior teaching experience, nor do you need to be able to speak the language of your host country. Every GAPper undertakes a teaching skills course prior to starting their placement. Just be prepared to talk about yourself, your family, home, school and country, in a clear speaking voice to bring lessons to life! There are a few teaching placements in Vanuatu that have the added challenge of teaching English literature, science, geography, social science and mathematics.

**Countries:** Argentina, China, Tibetans in India, Italy, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, Vanuatu, Vietnam

#### *Boarding School*

In a boarding school you'll generally have boarding house responsibilities before all else: this may involve waking the students, preparing and serving meals, supervising homework, arranging recreational activities or

sorting the laundry! In addition, you may be coaching sport or assisting with music, art, craft and administration duties. You won't be responsible for classes on your own, but you could be asked to assist in the classroom, meaning you will have to get on with staff and students alike. You will always be the responsible adult within a Schools (Boarding) placement, so you'll need to show maturity, foresight and flexibility. It can be hard to supervise students the same age as yourself. At times the work can be mundane, but if you take the initiative and are helpful and flexible in your approach, it will be very rewarding.

Hours of work vary from placement to placement. You may be asked to work in the early mornings and late evenings, with time off in the middle of the day. Expect to work weekends, although there will be regular exeats to compensate.

Countries: Indigenous Australia, Canada, Germany (need Year 12 German), New Zealand, South Africa, UK/Ireland

#### *Outdoor Activities*

There are a number of activities you could be involved in at outdoor centres - kayaking, skiing, fencing, rock-climbing, horse-riding, hiking, archery, ropes, orienteering, sailing and rifle shooting to name just a few. There'll be some general maintenance work, domestic duties and a bit of administration as well. Full and lengthy training is given. A variety of skills can be useful, and in some cases placements will call for particular qualifications in first aid or lifesaving. An interest in team sport is not enough to be eligible for an Outdoor placement – you must have demonstrated interest and some basic experience in at least six of the activities listed on the application form. Involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Cadets, Guides, Scouts or Outward Bound is a useful grounding for these placements.

Placements in the UK/Ireland follow the outdoor education curriculum of the school system, so most GAPpers will be leading activities for school students. Approximately 20% of the work in Canadian outdoor placements will be with disabled or disadvantaged students. Other countries focus their outdoor camps around disabled students, school and community groups.

**Countries:** Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, UK/Ireland

#### *Environmental*

A small number of placements are available in the area of environmental and field studies. You are asked to assist with groups observing flora and fauna at residential camps, in addition to some domestic duties, administration and general maintenance. The groups may be school children, disabled students or the elderly. There are some conservation and heritage placements in Germany, which require you to speak German at a year 12 level.

**Countries:** Canada, Germany (need Year 12 German), South Africa, UK/Ireland

#### **Cost**

There is an administration fee of \$2400.

#### **For More Information**

Contact: Ms Angela Cox

#### **Length of Service**

4- 6 Months

PO BOX 6054

Chapel St North

South Yarra VIC 3141

#### **What is included**

- Accommodation
- Meals
- 24 Hour support
- Pocket Money

T: 03 9826 6266

F: 03 9826 6116

E: [acox@gapaaustralia.org](mailto:acox@gapaaustralia.org)

[www.gapaaustralia.org](http://www.gapaaustralia.org)

#### **What is not included**

- Airfares
- Vaccinations
- Personal spending money
- Insurance
- Visa
- Airport departure taxes

**Please Note:** A scholarship funded by GAP may be possible. This is still under negotiation.