

Student Volunteering Programme 2012

Chennai, India

FAQs

Who is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity International is an international non-profit development organisation which aims to eliminate poverty housing around the world by making decent housing a matter of conscience and action. Over the last thirty five years, we have been working to provide simple, decent, affordable homes for families on the margins of society. **HFH does not build houses for people; it builds with them.** We work together with homeowners and volunteers to construct, renovate or refurbish homes, using donations of money, land and materials. Once completed, houses are sold to partner families at no profit, providing a hand up, rather than a hand out. HFH now works in almost 100 countries and has built more than 400,000 homes around the world, housing more than 2 million people.

Who is Habitat for Humanity India?

Habitat for Humanity started work in India in 1983 and has taken great strides to eradicate poverty housing in India and has built more than 35,000 houses providing homes for around 175,00 people. [Habitat for Humanity India](#) works in partnership with local, grass root Non Government Organizations and micro-finance organizations to reach people in need of decent housing. It also provides Disaster Response through development of innovative housing and shelter assistance models, capacity of the community in the areas of disaster mitigation, preparedness and recovery through education, training and partnerships.

Who is Habitat for Humanity International Partners?

Habitat for Humanity places a strong emphasis on ensuing **sustainability** of its interventions that is why every Habitat for Humanity works with local partner's in-country. These partners (Community based organisations, NGOs, local governments) provide local expertise on issues related to development from education to gender equality and health promotion. They are necessary to ensure that each family we work with have the resources available to help them develop in the long-term.



What is Habitat for Humanity Ireland's Student Volunteering Programme?

Habitat for Humanity New Student Volunteering Programme is giving 50 students the opportunity to live and work in India for one month, work with Habitat for Humanity and their partners, learn about development issues and gain first-hand experience of life in a developing country.

Do I have to be a student to apply?

No you do not. Habitat for Humanity Ireland's Student Volunteering Programme is open to both students and individuals who want to gain significant volunteering experience abroad, want to learn about development issues in India and who are energetic and enthusiastic about giving something back to those in need.

What type of work will I be involved in?

You will gain practical development experience: in building sustainable homes alongside local families, working with local women's groups, volunteering on development education programs, teaching and mentoring children in local schools. By volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and our partners you will gain first-hand experience of life in a developing country.

What experience do I need to participate in Habitat for Humanity Ireland Student Volunteering Programme?

You do not require any experience.

The type of people we are looking for are those who want an experience of a life time, want to learn about a different culture, are passionate about global issues and want to gain practical experience overseas.

The aim of the program is to provide YOU with skills that you can take to the next level after university through your work placements, further education or overseas volunteering like: *leadership skills, team working, intercultural awareness and communication, networking and fundraising know-how, project field experience* and many more.

What will the month look like?

The month will be divided into two parts. 2 weeks will be spent volunteering with Habitat for Humanity partners in Chennai to learn about different development issues: women’s rights, disaster risk management, land rights, provision of education and health. 2 weeks will be spent learning about poverty housing, the impact it has on families and working alongside a family in need to build a home.

Weekends will be spent learning about the local area and visiting various cultural attractions.

What will a typical day on the trip like?

APPROXIMATE SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF A DAY IN INDIA

| TIME | TASK |
|--------------------|---|
| 7:00am – 8:00 am | Breakfast – travel to partner – school/site/community |
| 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Work with partner |
| 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Lunch |
| 6:00 pm | Clean-up |
| 7:00 pm – 9: 00 pm | Dinner |
| 9:00pm – 10:00 pm | Team discussion |

How many places are there on the programme?

There are 50 places on the programme.

Will team members be divided?

Yes team members will be divided into different teams of Each team will have an opportunity to work with partner organisations and at the building site. The teams will be determined closer to the time.

How much do I have to raise?

What makes our Student Volunteering Programme distinctive is that you require no* additional personal funds while in country once you have fundraised the target for the programme. This year’s minimum target is €3,500 and you will get support from us to help you achieve it!

This fundraising will cover:

- Pre-departure support (information sessions, development education, ongoing support from Habitat staff)
- €850 will be donated to support the work of our programmes. This includes €425 donations towards the development of **the local programme in India** and €425 will be spent on development of the [local programme in Ireland](#)
- Transportation: flights; transport from and to the airport in-country; in – country transport to the work site
- Accommodation during the trip within local community (local hostel/hotel) what will allow you to participate in community life after work hours
- Local food: 3 meals per day, snacks and water
- Weekend activities aiming at increasing your awareness of culture and developmental issues (all weekends are covered)
- Support before, during and after the trip: comprehensive insurance cover; 24-hour emergency support, permanent support from the local coordinator

* not included in the cost: Visa fees, personal expenses, vaccinations

If volunteers plan to stay on and travel after the project they will need to bring their own money to cover this travel.

What support will I receive to my fundraising efforts?

The majority of people that will apply for the programme will not have fundraised before and will find the fundraising daunting – this is natural. Habitat for Humanity Ireland will work with you on ideas to help you reach the target. You will also have the support of your team members which you will meet 4 times throughout the year to encourage and support you on your planned activities.

What happens if I raise above the target amount?

In most cases volunteers raise over the fundraising target. In this case the 90 percent of the excess money will go directly to support Habitat for Humanity project overseas. 10 percent will stay in the Habitat for Humanity Ireland office and support the development of their projects.

What happens if I do not raise the target amount?

Habitat for Humanity has a special bursary fund that students can apply for. To qualify for this fund students must prove that they have made a sufficient effort to fundraise and due to special circumstance were unable to reach the target.

Do you have to attend all team meetings?

Absolutely - It is important you meet your team, learn about the project and the issues you may face in the country. If you miss your team meetings you are likely to lose your place on the project.

Will I have to get vaccinations before I go to India?

Yes, there are a number of vaccinations you must get before going to India. You can go to your local GP or the tropical medical bureau for the relevant advice. Vaccinations are not included in the fundraising.

Where will I stay when on the placement?

You will be staying in a hostel with your other team members. This accommodation will be very basic.

Is it safe where I will be going?

Habitat for Humanity carefully selects the destinations of the volunteering trips based on safety standards and previous experience. We are delighted to have sent a number of teams to India in the past.

What happens when I get back to Ireland?

Whenever you return from your trip you will participate in our debrief session. During this session we will talk about your experience, the highlights and the challenges you faced. We will discuss how this experience has affected you in your own professional and personal development.

Once you have participated in the student volunteering programme you automatically become a part of Habitat for Humanity Ireland Alumni and a Habitat for Humanity Society if you study at a university.

We hope that after your experience you will become an Ambassador of our work!!!

How do I apply?

You can apply online at www.habitatireland.ie or alternatively you can print and send your application form to Kasia Pilat at Kasia@habitatireland.ie , Quadrant House, Chapelizod, Dublin 20.