

LATTITUDE

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING

Aotearoa- New Zealand

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HOW TO CONTACT US:

+64 (0)6 350 5920

(Phone)

+64 (0)6 350 5640 (fax)

info@lattice.org.nz

Sharyn Hight

Country Programme

Manager

shight@lattice.org.nz

Anna Burgin

Volunteer Co-ordinator

aburgin@lattice.org.nz

Maarten Bazuin

Volunteer Co-ordinator

info@lattice.org.nz

Lorna Murrell

Volunteer Co-ordinator

admin@lattice.org.nz

Greetings from Sharyn

A big hello to everyone as we hit June and the business end of our Lattice process. To update you, we have completed our interview process, interviewing applicants all around New Zealand. Most now have been sent to the programme manager if the country of first choice. We are getting daily notifications from Programme managers of acceptances. Once we have received these we will send out a formal offer—this is posted out to you rather than e-mailed. For those of you waiting to hear of placements in the UK, we have pre-matched the large bulk of volunteers to their first or second choice of placements. The first lot of offers have gone out this week, however more are coming back every day—we will update you as soon as we hear anything. We are currently running a waiting list of around 20 female applicants for UK schools, these people will be slotted in to a placement as one becomes available. Please do not hesitate to give us a call if you are getting anxious, but rest assured that everything is on track at this point. June saw Lattice staff attend a number of large Careers Expos which were highly successful. We are still receiving applications so a reminder to everyone—late applications will be received on a first come first served basis, and will be dependent on there being vacancies in the country you want to go to. They are filling up fast so please contact us asap if you are planning to apply.

Finally many of the volunteers placed at schools and camps are preparing to leave after completing 6 and 12 month placements here in New Zealand. We would like to congratulate them on the fantastic job they have done and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

Teaching Skills Course

More and more of our volunteers are deciding to volunteer in more challenging countries and in placements where they may be teaching. Lattice Global Volunteering tries to prepare volunteers as much as possible for all placement, however for these more challenging placement, attendance at a teaching Skills Course is compulsory. Some countries such as Vietnam and Poland offer the teaching skills course in country and is combined with orientation. For countries that do not offer this in country we have combined with Massey University in Palmerston North to offer a teaching skills course in Palmerston North. For volunteer going teaching placements in **India, Vanuatu, South Africa and Argentina** attendance at this course will be compulsory. This year we are looking in to the possibility of running country specific pre-departure briefings for these countries only, the day before the teaching skills course. The aim is to have all of the volunteers going to these more challenging placements together in the same place to start building their support network amongst each other, rather than have one or two people attend different pre-departure briefings around the country. We will have more information about this shortly and will aim to give you as much time to prepare for this as possible. People who are volunteering all other countries should attend the pre-departure briefing closest to them in October and November.

Focus on Fiji

Nature of work

Community Projects (volunteering in villages): This is quite a loosely phrased category and in many ways this reflects the volunteering. You will become a volunteer for a Fijian Village and mainly working as a teacher's assistant in the district school. Although you are technically a teaching assistant, it is very likely that you could be given your own class to teach. Rural district schools are often under staffed so if you are working there, you may get thrown in at the deep end and be given your own class to teach! These placements are generally in rural/remote areas and nearest town could be an hour or 2 away by truck. Classes are taught in English so you do not need to worry about learning Fijian. Some young children though, may not have great English and you need to have patience to be able to help them – you need to think about the vocabulary that you use too. Making the effort to learn Fijian will be helpful and will earn the respect of the locals.



Volunteers who go to these placements needs to be confident, academically strong (for teaching wide range of subjects) and be able to cope with living with basic amenities. You may also not be given much direction so will need to be proactive and not afraid to give things a go. Accommodation will be organised by the school and is likely to be with a family who lives locally or a teacher. On the plus side, this means you can shape the placements how you like based on your own skills and interests – if you're good at Maths, set up a Maths club for kids who are struggling with their maths. Or, if you're good at rugby (which is massive in Fiji!), join the rugby club and help them with some coaching.....

Rural placements

These placements are in rural, traditional Fijian villages. They are an opportunity to have a fantastic Fijian cultural experience. However it's important to know what is involved. Here are some key points:

- Public transport is not so easily accessible and buses tend to be carriers/trucks which can take a while to get to the nearest town.
- Mobile phone reception may not be so good and you are unlikely to have internet at your placement.
- You will be the only Latitude volunteer at the placement and will only be able to meet up with other volunteers at weekends.
- Showers will be cold and toilet will be outside.
- Accommodation will be basic (may just be a mattress on a floor) and will be with a teacher or a with a local Fijian family.
- You may only have electricity for a few hours at night
- Evenings will be spent socialising with your family – you may be playing cards, listening to music, drinking kava etc.



These are traditional villages so you need to be culturally sensitive and be aware of local traditions and customs paying particular attention to dress code for females.

Accommodation

In villages, you will be staying in traditional Fijian huts/houses – electricity may be produced by a generator which is switched on at about 6pm until 9pm. Toilets are generally flush toilets but are sometimes outside of the house. Showers are not as powerful as you are used to and maybe just a tap/bucket outside surrounded by a shelter. Showers will be cold but it's so warm there, you won't want a hot shower! You will probably stay with another teacher or a local family and share their house and eat all your meals with them. Your evenings and social life will be spent in and around the local villages. You will spend evenings playing cards, helping local kids with their homework or just drinking kava with the local villages at weekends!



Hola Lattitude, Unfortunately Chris and I have hit the three month mark, meaning we have only one month more left in Neuquén before travelling around Argentina and Peru then leaving South America. However... what this meant was that we were able to take a HOLIDAY to renew our visas to Pucon in Chile. We took an overnight bus, crossing the Andes to an immediately colder environment.

We arrived in a tourist town, famous for its adventure activities due to its location next to Villarica Volcano and four lakes. We found a hostel after exchanging our money. It was the richest I have ever felt, \$40,000 pesos - equivalent to \$120 NZD.

We stayed at a lively hostel with a great fire, which proved necessary! We met 4 crazy Brazilians 2 French guys and some Americans. We all sung our National anthems one evening which was a hoot.

We went to hot pools and got there by taking a local bus. As we got on a man was selling popcorn and nuts. Kids were travelling home from school, with their white pop socks. As we ventured further and further into the middle of nowhere, it started to surprise me how it was so normal for these people to live so far away from any kind of centre. A lady hopped off the bus with what looked like a months supply of shopping. All the men wear hats and have dark moustaches. In the pools we saw a magnificent view of the stars.. the same ones as in New Zealand!

We biked one day 25km to another lake along muddy tracks. It was awesome to do some mountain biking again. We saw an amazing waterfall on our way there and a strangely large flock of turkeys. Mountains surrounded us throughout the journey. We arrived to a deserted lake after taking photos of two gigantic bulls helping farmers collect wood. It was the most tranquil and beautiful lake. On the way home we descended a hill for at least 10 minutes, reaching insane speeds and yelling the whole way.

A highlight was probably climbing Villarica, one of Chiles most active volcanoes. We saw amazing ice formations and towards the end, our guides had to cut steps in the ice as it was so steep! We all had ice-picks which were very useful. We spent 20 minutes at the top (no more due to the toxic gas it emits) and saw incredible panoramic views of Chile; mountain ranges, lakes and 3 other volcanoes. On the way down we sat on plastic and slid! it only took 2 hours compared to the 6 hours on the way up. It was the longest toboggan of my life.

All in all we had a great trip... Now we are back in Argentina with Mate firmly in our hands and Dulce de Leche dripping from lips. Home sweet home.

Chau... Brooke



Hi Lattitude!

Just wanted to say I have had an amazing time in New Zealand working at a school in the Hawkes Bay. I have managed to work hard and play hard, making the most of all the opportunities that have come my way! There is a huge list of highlights, but some of them at work have been coaching my own hockey and netball teams, helping the year 7s with their maths and english (although i swear they are better at maths than me), cliff traversing on school camp and getting to know the other staff and feeling part of the team. Travelling in my time off has been amazing. I've fitted in bungy jumping into a river, skydiving over Taupo, blackwater rafting, jumping off waterfalls and of course watching some local rugby matches! I have a month left in New Zealand after finishing work at the school in July. Plan is to get on a backpackers bus and see more of the South Island as well as getting on the skies and heading up the mountain! New Zealand is such a beautiful country and will be very sad to head home to the UK.

Thanks for everything Lattitude
Chloe Newsom

Vacancies

We still have vacancies available for 2012 departure!! Below is a brief summary of some of the placements on offer. To find out more information please do not hesitate to contact the office.

- Argentina— March and August 2012
- Vanuatu—January and June 2012 in teaching placements
- South Africa—Vacancies for January 2012
- Fiji—January and August 2012 vacancies
- Vietnam—February and August 2012
- India— January, February and August 2012
- Costa Rica—January and May 2012
- Australia—January and July 2012
- Poland—February and September 2012
- UK Outdoor—March 2012
- Canada outdoor—January and March 2012



Important Dates for 2011

Departure Dates 2011

- 25th June 2011—Second departure to Vanuatu
- 10 August 2011—Second departure to Argentina
- 27th August 2011—Second departure Vietnam
- 31 August 2011—First New Zealanders depart for Fiji
- September 2011—Second departure to Poland

Predeparture Briefing Dates 2011

- 29 October—Christchurch venue and time tba
- 5 November—PN venue and time to be advised
- 6 November—Auckland venue and time tba

Teaching Skills Course Dates 2011

14– 16 December in Palmerston North

Departure Dates 2012

- 7th January—NZ Volunteers arrive to South Africa
- 9th January— First UK departure for 2012
- 21st January—First arrival for Canada
- First departure to Vanuatu
- First departure to Fiji
- 24th January—First ever departure to Australia
- February - departure to Poland
- February—first even departure to India
- 26th February—Second arrival to Canada
- February—Departure to Vietnam
- 29th February—Second UK departure
- 11th March—Third arrival to Canada
- 26th March— Third UK Departure
- March—departure to Argentina
- 21st April—Fourth arrival to Canada