

NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2015

2016
APPLICATIONS
OPEN
NOW!

LATTITUDE
GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING



March, and the sun is still shining in New Zealand. What a summer! Things are heating up for the team at Lattitude too, as applications start to roll in for 2016. It's an exciting time of the year for us, as we travel around schools and universities in New Zealand, holding presentations for students, and letting everyone, whether school leavers, under-graduates or post-graduates, know their options for next year. The concept of volunteering overseas is huge, and we know you and your family will have many questions for us... that's what we are here for! Don't hesitate to email or call us on our 0800 number; no questions are too big or small. And just a reminder: our 'priority deadline' is coming up at the end of THIS month: 30th March, so get your applications in & secure your spot today!

\$\$\$: We keep pricing as low as we can, but sadly, joining the Lattitude volunteer programme is not free. However, we try to make it as easy as possible for our volunteers to get the money together, and space out the time between payments, so you can get to work raising funds. When applying, the only payment you have to make is the \$150 application fee, which covers our personal interviews with you and your family etc. After that, we do not ask for any further payments until you have been officially offered your place in the programme, usually not for a couple months after your interview. At that stage, we ask you to pay an \$800 deposit to secure your position, and AFTER THAT, the rest of the Lattitude fee is not due until 40 days before you depart. So... you have a good long time to come up with the funds. We really encourage fundraising, and also, applicants worried about expense should consider destinations a little closer to home, as obviously, the cost of travel to Fiji or Vanuatu is much less than the price of a return ticket to Europe, and yet, our Pacific Island placements are, well.... AMAZING!!!

Lattitude Global Volunteering is the original
gap year organisation, supporting young people
on unique and rewarding placements for 40 years

www.lattitude.org.nz
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Focus on Vanuatu

Lattitude Volunteer Clare:

After years of research I organised my volunteering placement with a charity called Lattitude Global Volunteering. They offered the chance to completely immerse myself in a different culture, to really challenge myself and to make a real difference. As I was flying over the South Pacific Ocean in a 5 seater plane, just about to land on a grass runway on an island small enough to walk across in a day, I remember the nervous excitement of going into the unknown; I just couldn't wait for the adventure to start! I finally touched down in Port Vila Airport, and, hauling my tattered rucksack off the plane I looked up to the sight of local children greeting us; shouting and singing – wearing torn, scrappy clothes (or nothing at all) beating the ground with sticks and dancing wildly around. It was then I realised these were 6 months of my life that not all the travel books in the world could have prepared me for.

I will always remember my first hour teaching the year 7s, those 20 or so eager, beautiful faces, ready to learn. However, I completely misunderstood the painful shyness of so many of the children, and saw more than one dive like a shot under the desk when asked a question! This certainly made teaching even more of a challenge!

After a few months I had the most amazing morale boost! Whilst walking through the market a little old lady came beaming up to me, and, grasping my hands, told me how completely and utterly thankful she was for having me as the French teacher for her little boy – Watson.

I heard how, everyday, Watson had walked home and then opened up his books again with his younger brother, who they could not afford to send to school, and passed on -



– from his grubby French book, everything I had taught in that days lesson.

At that moment 2 timid looking boys were ushered out from behind their mother, I smiled at Watson and bent down beside the smaller one I didn't recognise. 'Ca Va?' I asked, a kick in the shins from his older brother nudged this little shoeless child who had never stepped foot inside a classroom to gaze up at me, his round, hazelnut eyes fixing on mine as he replied 'Ca Va bien merci' another nudging kick from Watson and he remembered his French manners – 'etvous?'

It was like my whole insides were alight! I was beaming for at least a week after! This little old lady and her 2 boys had given me the most incredible feeling imaginable; I went to lessons so much more confident of my abilities. Day by day I understood more about how they learnt, and about the culture itself, eventually my teaching became almost natural.

The months following are such a blur – my year 3s racing up to me every day, taking my bag for me and clinging onto my hands, begging me to stay with them all day. On the especially hot days my year 7s and I would all leap outside and play games, however my attempts to teach sport of any kind soon turned around to them teaching me sport, I have never seen so many athletic eager sports people!

Those months really do hold so many stories, memories and images, there is just so much to say about my 6 months there, it made me question everything I've ever known, open my eyes to a life I'd never even known existed and made me more emotional than ever before!

If you are reading this on a digital device, click the links on the photos to watch the videos below. Otherwise, feel free to explore our website, which is packed full of information & videos.



My name is Hayden Brokenshire and this is just a video that sums up my time volunteering at Loone Primary School on the small island of Ambae in Vanuatu. With no running water, no electricity and no internet it was far from what I'm use to at home. I met many amazing people and did things I thought I would never have the chance to do. My trip was challenging, eye-opening and without a doubt something I will never forget.

"My name's Digby, I'm a returned volunteer with Latitude. Teaching was really rewarding over there, so I decided when I came back to do a course where I could be a lot more practical, & go back to places like Vanuatu and really help them out. I chose to study architecture with construction management. It was the best change I could of made, and I feel like I'm making a difference now"



"As soon as I met the villagers, as soon as I realised these guys would give me the shirt off their back, and they were all super welcoming, that was it. I knew that this is where I wanted to be for the next six months. For the first time, I wasn't seen as a kid, but as a mentor and a teacher, and someone respected, having that teacher position. It's such a great learning experience, and I think I would recommend it to everyone, as a necessity."





Haven't been able to attend one of our many Info Nights around the country? We will be holding our first WEBINAR this Thursday, March 12th, at 7pm. During this session, we will be discussing the Lattitude programme, and streaming live on the internet. Despite not seeing you all face to face, the webinar is still interactive, with viewers able to type questions to us, and have them answered straight away. We recommend you have a 'google+' account to enable you to participate. Youtube is the alternative, however, the viewers can not ask questions via the youtube site. Please follow the links below to participate.

<https://plus.google.com/events/c83htrpjdhejudsnj2d8l6rm48g>

or

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-U9YnAXy5Gg>

Helpful hints for participating in webinar:

Log on a few minutes before 7pm, to ensure all is working. At 7, you should see a screen stating that the webinar will begin shortly. If not, refresh your browser. You may need to push the PLAY icon on the video to start streaming. For those of you using google +, the Q&A field can be opened by clicking the small keypad icon (a square of nine smaller squares), in the black bar at the top of the screen. Please be aware, that the live feed may have a delay of two or more minutes, so if you ask questions, please allow some time for them to be addressed. Please be patient with us! This is our first attempt at a webinar, so fingers crossed, it all runs smoothly!

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