



Overview

MINIMUM AGE: 17
DEPARTS: Jan / Jun
LENGTH: 5 to 6 months
ROLE AVAILABLE: Teacher

Why Vanuatu?

Vanuatu (pronounced Van – “oo-ah” too) is a country made up of a group of islands in the South West Pacific, 660 miles west of Fiji and about 1200 miles north-east of Sydney.

Where are the placements?

Lattitude placements are located on the islands of Ambae, Pentecost, Paama and Tanna. All are accessible by Twin Otter planes.

Is it for me?

Vanuatu placements are demanding and offer a huge challenge. This is not a palm trees and beach opportunity by any means, but a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for those seeking a truly rewarding experience!

Placements in Vanuatu involve teaching in day and boarding schools (primary and secondary). Subjects taught include English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, (Geography, History and RE) and, if the school is Anglophone, French. In addition, general boarding supervision and assistance with extracurricular activities including sport (soccer, volleyball, basketball), music and drama will be expected. Volunteers should be prepared to work full school days from 7:30am to 3:30pm with some occasional evening boarding work.

Placement Locations



Candidates must have a strong academic record as they will be performing the role of a full time teacher, not a classroom assistant. In secondary schools for example you may find yourself teaching Yr 13.

We require mature, resilient, self starters who have the confidence to plan and teach classes of up to 40 pupils at a time with little or no direction. You need to be tolerant of cultural differences and religious beliefs and willing to live a hand to mouth existence for six months with few material possessions. You will be based on remote and isolated island locations where communication with the outside world is infrequent at best and the pace of life is VERY slow. You will need to be self-reliant, resourceful, a strong communicator, and have a willingness to embrace a totally different culture.

The Ni-Vanuatu people are exceptionally warm and welcoming. That said, volunteers need to be aware that they will have to abide by local laws, customs and beliefs to fully integrate into Vanuatu life. Agnostics or Atheists might find life tough. Females must also be aware that Vanuatu is a male dominated society where appropriate dress codes and behaviour need to be adhered to at all times.

Accommodation and Food

Accommodation will be provided either within the school, on the campus or with local families in the surrounding community. It will be extremely basic and rudimentary. There will be bush toilets, no hot water, bucket showers and little or no electricity. Volunteers will be placed in pairs. Food will be a basic (and often bland) diet of rice, bread, local cabbages, vegetables, fruit and tinned meat. You will need the ability to cook for yourself and the resourcefulness to make your meals more interesting using herbs, spices and sauces.

Travel

There is usually a two-week break between Term 1 and 2 (about mid-May), and between Term 2 and 3 (around mid-August). There are also numerous public holidays held in Vanuatu!

Need to Know

- Pre departure briefing: All volunteers will be invited to a group briefing prior to departure.
- Language: We have one school which requires two fluent French speaking candidates. This will be a year long project.
- On arrival: All volunteers will travel together to Port Vila where they will undertake a one week orientation in the capital.

What's included

- Interview (face to face or by phone)
- Pre-departure briefing
- Airport pickup
- Accommodation and food
- In-country orientation & support
- 24/7 emergency support

Costs

The costs shown are for Lattitude placements departing in 2011. (Please note that these prices may change for placements departing in 2012.)

Lattitude Fees (these are exact costs)

Lattitude application fee	\$125
Lattitude contribution fee	\$2900
Lattitude Teaching Skills Course	N/A
Lattitude In-country Orientation	\$300

You will also need to budget for the following (these are approx costs)

Travel Insurance (6 months)	\$340
Return Airfares (approx cost of group flight)	\$1250
VISA	N/A
Police Check	\$43
Total Cost (approx)	\$4958



"This is an amazing place. Most of the food we eat is grown on the island, and there's a generator that's on for about two hours a night to run the lights so the students can do their homework. One thing I've realised is that the young people are a lot more content here, both in their surroundings and themselves. Most people live very simply in small huts and they find their own entertainment and take pleasure in the simple things like climbing the palm trees to get coconuts, running around playing soccer or swimming on the reef and catching fish."

Mike Townshend, Teacher