

Testimonials



Cameron Coleman, Volunteer
Antofagasta 2007

My eight months with the program helped me to grow so much as a person. Being immersed in another culture instead of simply visiting a country will change the way you view the world. I feel that part of me will live on in Antofagasta even if I never return, which I definitely plan to do in order to visit the many great friends I made.

Meghan Moore, Volunteer
Antofagasta 2005

Having small classes of 25 students has been effective and allowed me carry out speaking activities that include the entire class. My students recently made posters outlining their opinions on why learning English is important to Chileans, the results were great!



Warren Eickhoff, Volunteer
Curico 2007

During his 6 months of volunteering, Warren improved his Spanish language skills by 2 levels according to international standards! *Mi idea es continuar trabajando en el campo de la educación acá en los EE.UU. en los ramos de español e inglés. Puedo usar todo lo que logré en Chile para conseguir un trabajo aquí. Espero que el próximo año el Centro Nacional de Voluntarios tenga por lo menos el mismo éxito que tuvo este año y espero que cada año puedan lograr más.*

Gunjan Rastogi-Wilson, Volunteer
Mejillones 2006

I had an amazing experience with my Chilean host family. I was welcomed with open arms and supported throughout my 6-month experience. Through homesickness and language challenges, through hours of laughter and sharing stories around the dinner table, I developed a special bond with my adopted family. My host family was the most enriching part of my volunteer experience.



Mark McKague, Volunteer
San Fernando 2008

I've been in Santiago for only a few days, but already I feel very comfortable and I'm amazed by the caring and generosity of the Chilean people. I've had the opportunity to meet such a unique variety of individuals from all over the world and form friendships that will last a lifetime. All English Opens Doors representatives have been knowledgeable and helpful throughout orientation, which has prepared me well for teaching.

Who do we work with?

The National Volunteer Center operates through the collaboration and partnership of international organizations, national and regional governmental authorities, private foundations and businesses, public school teachers and principals, and thousands of students.

The National Volunteer Center recruits volunteers directly and also works with recruiting agencies specializing in programs abroad. Our volunteers hail from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries with native English-speaking populations.

Some of the institutions with which the National Volunteer Center has worked in the past include:

- Alliance Abroad Group
- Bridge-Linguatex Inc.
- Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Cultural Embrace
- Experiment
- Global Crossroad
- James Madison University
- Kwantlen University College
- TEFL Academy
- TEFL Institute
- University of British Columbia
- University of Calgary
- Utah State University
- WorldTeach
- World Youth Student & Educational Travel Confederation



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By teaching English and learning Spanish in Chile...
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The English Opens Doors Program, through the National Volunteer Center, provides equal opportunity to all people regardless of nationality, race, religion, gender, age, disability, political affiliation or marital status.



United Nations
Development
Programme



CHILEAN MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION

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ENGLISH OPENS DOORS
FULL-TIME PROGRAM

NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
CENTER

CHILE



United Nations
Development
Programme



CHILEAN MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION



Michelle Bachelet,
President of Chile.



Monica Jimenez,
Minister of Education.

What is the National Volunteer Center?

The National Volunteer Center is an initiative of the English Opens Doors Program which was developed and implemented by the Chilean Ministry of Education and the United Nations Development Programme. The National Volunteer Center seeks to bring native English-speaking volunteers to work in Chilean public schools as English-language teaching assistants. The program is designed to compensate for the lack of exposure to native English speakers faced by most students in Chile's public school system.

Objectives

For Chile, mastering the English language is important in order to meet the challenges the country faces in sustaining its development as an emerging economy in an increasingly globalized world. Volunteers create new opportunities for students to use English in everyday situations, motivating them to learn, practice and speak English. For many teachers, contact with the volunteer is their only opportunity to practice English with a native speaker.

Context

Considered a success story to be emulated by other developing nations, Chile is a full-fledged member of APEC and NAFTA as well as one of the European Union's trade partners. Its stable democracy and well-managed economy have attracted a steady influx of foreign investment and promoted local entrepreneurship. Within this context, mastery of the English language is deemed an important skill to sustain growth and provide more opportunities for all Chileans.

What do volunteers do?

Volunteers teach in public schools throughout the country, live with a host family in their community and receive a monthly stipend. For the duration of their respective programs, volunteers work as teaching assistants to Chilean English teachers and lead extracurricular activities for the school community.

In public schools, English language instruction begins in the 5th grade and volunteers may be assigned to work with one or more grade levels anywhere from 5th to 12th grade. Volunteers split classes with the Chilean English teacher and teach one-half of the group (approximately 25 students) on listening and speaking skills in their own classroom, while the Chilean teacher works with the second half of the class in a separate classroom setting. After 45 minutes, the Volunteer and the Chilean teacher switch groups. For many students and teachers, a volunteer is an excellent opportunity for them to listen to, and practice speaking with a native English speaker.

Program Periods:

- Year Program: January-November
- 8-months: March-November
- 6-months: May-November
- 4-months: July-November
- 10 weeks: May-August & June-August

Program Highlights Include:

- Host family placement
- Monthly stipend
- Classroom teaching and cultural exchange
- International work experience
- Training and support



Why should I join this program?

Volunteers enjoy a unique international experience with a range of program benefits, and also participate in a more far-reaching initiative: a nationwide campaign to improve English teaching and learning.

- **Prestige** - The National Volunteer Center is run jointly by the Chilean Ministry of Education and the United Nations Development Programme.
- **Spanish** - An immersion experience coupled with Spanish lessons is the best way to improve your fluency and comprehension.
- **Teaching** - With increased globalization, teaching English in an emerging economy is a social contribution, and as an added benefit, you gain international work experience.
- **The Country** - Chile is a safe country with a stable democracy and is a leading economy in the region.
- **Travel options** - Chile's diverse landscapes and climates offer breath-taking natural wonders, from the driest desert in the world to dazzlingly blue glaciers, stunning snow-capped mountains and the vast, sparkling Pacific Ocean.

Discover what the 2007 volunteers had to say about their experience. Visit our website at www.centrodevoluntarios.cl and watch a volunteer video!

What do we offer?

The Ministry of Education offers:

- Accommodation and meals with host family.
- Monthly stipend of CLP\$85.000 (approximately USD\$170 as of January 2008).
- All-expenses-paid orientation in the capital city of Santiago which includes TEFL training, orientation to Chilean culture and education, Spanish lessons, and cultural activities.
- All-expenses-paid local orientation.
- Assistance obtaining a Temporary Residence Visa and Chilean I.D. card.
- Round-trip transportation from Santiago to regional placement site.
- Online Spanish Course.
- Diagnostic and exit tests to measure Spanish language learning.
- Materials for your classroom.
- Ongoing teaching support.
- Program certification by the Chilean Ministry of Education.

