

Nursery and Primary School Volunteers

Highlights



- Spending your time interacting with the children – we bet you'll have as much fun as they do!
- Trying out your haggling skills in Cusco's markets – beautiful fabrics, jewellery and of course the obligatory llama wool jumper!
- Providing a real helping hand to the overworked staff at the school.

About The Project

The nursery and primary school was created by Academia Latinoamericana – it serves to provide a resource for children of lower-economic households. The children are between the ages of 4 and 13 years old and educational programming is structured based on grade levels. There are currently over 55 children enrolled although numbers are constantly growing.

Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Cusco to get to know the city and learn how to get around and use the public transport system. In the afternoon there's an information session in which you will learn about the Academia, as well as about important issues such as security, do's and don'ts in Cusco, accommodation, volunteer work etc. Your volunteer placement commences on Tuesday of the first week.



Volunteers work Monday – Friday from 8.30am until 12.30pm. It's important that volunteers joining this project are motivated and creative, and able to use their own initiative. Duties will vary, and may include some or all of the following:

- Preparing breakfast and keeping the kitchen clean
- Teaching the older children
- Helping the children with their homework
- Checking and correcting homework
- Playing with the children
- Organizing fun and educational activities

Location

The project is located on the outskirts of Cusco, 45-minutes by bus from the Academia. The city of Cusco sits perched amidst the clouds and the lush Andean greenery at 3300 meters above sea level. Due to the high elevation, it is cool at night, and sunny but cool during the day all year-round - this can be a great excuse to seek out the many markets selling the beautiful wool sweaters and textiles for which the country is renowned!



It's undoubtedly the archaeological capital of the Americas, as the gateway to Machu Picchu, and as such, is an exciting place to spend an extended period of time. Not only is it surrounded by beautiful Incan ruins, but you will be living in the hustle and bustle of a tourist city that still manages to retain many of its traditional ways of life. The narrow cobblestoned streets are lined with imposing Inca-built walls, and the plazas are thronged with Quechua-speaking descendants of the Incas.

Since Cusco is such an important tourist destination, it's no surprise to hear that there is a huge wealth of cafes, restaurants, bars and nightclubs to keep you entertained - a fun and varied social life is guaranteed in Cusco! Shopping is also another favorite past time amongst volunteers and students in Cusco, with some of the best places to pick up jewellery, leather crafts, textiles, woollen sweaters, musical instruments and other artisan products.

Accommodation

You will stay either at the student residence or with a host family. Host family accommodation includes a private room, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Singles, married couples and parents with children can all be accommodated. It is also possible to stay in a student residence – one is located within the school grounds, and there are two very nearby. Here you will self cater - there are shops and markets very nearby and a fully equipped kitchen.

Requirements

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to build up a trusting relationship with the children and staff.

All volunteers must hold a high intermediate level of spoken Spanish. If your Spanish is at a lower level, you must join our Spanish language school prior to commencing your volunteer work.

When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Peru, it is important to remain flexible as the needs of the project are constantly evolving. This is what makes volunteering so rewarding – the fact that you are on hand to lend your support when and where it is needed. By choosing Academia Latinoamericana de Español you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

Feedback

"This project really does help the children have a better education and thus a better future. I really enjoyed helping the teachers and would recommend to future volunteers that although they should embrace the social aspect of being in Peru, to put as much effort into their volunteer work as possible because the project really needs and appreciates your help and you will find it very rewarding knowing that you are making a difference".

Bas Helmink, Holland

Programme Fee Includes

- Accommodation
- 2 meals per day if staying with a host family
- Project Support
- A donation that goes directly to your project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- Laundry service if staying with a host family
- 24 hour emergency support

Programme Fee Does Not Include

- International flights
- Meals if staying at the student residence
- Laundry service if staying at the student residence
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

Travel Ideas

At our office we are fully equipped to help you with making weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time in Cusco. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and competitively priced trips. Some of the most popular excursions include:

- In and Around Cusco – at the weekends there are plenty of sights for you to explore in and around Cusco. There's the beautiful Chinchero Plaza, possibly the original Incan marketplace. Ollantaytambo fortress, where the Inca fought their last battle with the Spanish invaders. Pisac Indian market – one of the most well-known markets in the country, selling everything from textiles and paintings to vegetables and animals!
- Machu Picchu – No visit to Cusco is complete without seeing the enchanting and dramatic Incan citadel of Machu Picchu. The most famous route is via the multi-day Inca Trail route, however, there are plenty of alternative routes that also culminate in Machu Picchu, including a scenic train journey!
- Nazca Lines – A great mystery of South America. Take a flight across the stony plains of Pampa de San Jose and see for yourself the incredible animal-shaped and geometric etchings.
- The Amazon – Swing in hammocks, swim with pink river dolphins, spot exotic wildlife and pretend to be Tarzan! The ultimate Peruvian adventure!
- Lake Titicaca – South America's largest Lake which borders Peru and Bolivia. Stay on one of the floating islands for a true insight into the lifestyle and culture of the local communities.

Apply Now

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at sandra@latinoschools.ec

If you would like to book this programme, please [click here](#) to complete the booking form. We will be in touch within one week of application to confirm your booking!