

## Volunteer With Babies and Young Children



### Highlights

- Providing love and affection to babies and young children who are currently unable to live with their biological families.
- Lending a much needed helping hand to the busy and dedicated staff at the home.
- Exploring exciting Cusco at weekends.

### About the Project

On this project you will be volunteering with an association that commenced work in Cusco in 1997. Their aim is to protect the rights and interests of children most in need. Boys and girls who have been abandoned or who are at risk are provided with a safe home at a centre where staff

take on a family role to provide a caring environment for them. Wherever possible, the project tries to reintegrate the children with their families, however, when this is not possible, they also seek adoptive families for them. The children range in age from newborn up to ten years old.

### 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.



You will work alongside centre staff to provide support and assistance to the youths. Many workshops are held, including those focused on personal development and issues that have effected many of the youths such as alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual health and personal values. Vocational workshops are also important and currently include shoe making, sewing and agriculture. By arming the young people with new skills and knowledge you will be helping them to secure a better future through legal paid work. Educational classes are also provided, covering topics such as health, the environment, cultural identity and computing. Finally, the project organizes fun activities for the youths, such as sports, crafts and performing arts. You will be extremely busy every day, and will be involved in some or all of these activities.

Due to the young age of the children at the home, you will be extremely busy throughout the day! Activities will include some or all of the following:



- Bathing, changing and clothing the babies and children
- Feeding babies and helping at meal times
- Playing with the babies to provide early stimulation and learning
- Arranging fun activities such as arts and crafts with the slightly older children
- Taking the children for walks
- Providing love and affection

### **Location**

From the Academia in Cusco, the project can be reached within 30 minutes on foot, or 5 minutes by public bus.

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 Inca 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 is a really well organized and responsible project. It keeps the children out of harms way, as sadly many have come from difficult backgrounds. The children are just so cute – I absolutely loved my time with them.”*

Tom Hermeesch, USA

### **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](mailto: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!