

ICYE FINLAND

WORK PROFILE 2024-25



WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER IN FINLAND!

We are happy that you are interested to come and experience an ICYE voluntary work period in Finland! This Work Profile of Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland has been made in order to give you an idea of the types of voluntary work placements the ICYE program can offer.

In this profile, you will find general information on ICYE voluntary work in Finland as well as examples of possible voluntary workplaces. Please keep in mind that the profile doesn't hold all the projects, and not all the projects of the profile host volunteers every year. **In the matching process, we will do our best to take into account your preferences but we cannot guarantee you a place in any particular workplace or area in Finland.**

Volunteering Mostly in the Fields of Social work and Education

Most ICYE voluntary work placements in Finland are in the fields of social work and education. Social work in this context means child welfare institutions and work among elderly people and people with special needs, for example. Voluntary work is mostly done in non-profit organisations and institutions. Social work in Finland is mainly carried out by the government and municipalities, but there are also many active non-governmental organizations in this field.

In social work placements, the most important things for a volunteer to have are a **positive attitude and motivation for voluntary work and learning new things**. In addition, previous experience, interest in social work, and some knowledge of English (or Finnish) will make it easier to find a social work placement for you. Especially at the beginning of the period and for a person without a special profession or experience, the work is often quite practical.

The work tasks depend much on the volunteer's own initiative- There is usually an opportunity to shape the work tasks according to your interests and skills. So, please be active and make suggestions on developing your tasks during your voluntary work period!

Most of the workplaces are situated in the countryside, and the public transport connections to nearby towns and cities may not be very good, so it may not be easy to visit the city very often. But anyway, one of the most important parts of the experience is to get to know the culture through the local community. There nevertheless are also some workplaces in the capital city Helsinki and smaller towns.

Most of the volunteering opportunities are in organisations in which the volunteer is accommodated at the workplace, such as folk high schools. **Please note we have resources to place only a few volunteers in workplaces with host family accommodation (schools and kindergartens, for example) and we will be able to confirm these placements only after finding the host families.**

Tell us about your Preferences, Skills, and Interests

We do our best to find you a workplace where you can use your skills and learn. Please read through carefully which types of voluntary workplaces are available and send us **the Preference List** with information on the types of placements you are interested in. The information you give us is important for us in the search for the best possible voluntary workplace for you.

You can find the Preference List attached to the end of this Work Profile. In the Preference List form, you can also give us more information on your skills and experiences. It is our aim that the voluntary workplace can benefit from your contributions.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF VOLUNTARY WORK PLACEMENTS

These are the different types of voluntary work placements that Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland coordinates:



A) Child Welfare Institution

- **Child welfare institutions** include different kinds of organisations, but usually, ICYE volunteers work in foster homes. Foster homes are created for socially excluded children who are taken into custody from their biological parents because of drug and alcohol abuse or mental and social problems. The ages of the children vary from toddlers to teenagers. The community provides the children with care, social education, and a home-like, safe environment for growing. Most foster homes in Finland work in close co-operation with cities and municipalities that finance and monitor them.
- **The volunteers** participate in the daily activities of the foster home, supporting the staff and the children. Volunteers spend time with the kids giving them a possibility to learn from their language and culture. They organise free-time activities for them and also help with household tasks like cooking and cleaning. It is also possible that the volunteer creates for the children activities such as sports, arts, and languages.



B) Folk High School

- **Folk high schools** are boarding schools for mostly young adults aged from 16 to 30+. The folk high schools provide different types of study programs and courses from arts to languages and open university studies. Folk high schools are good options for young people who want to spend their "gap year" efficiently and to study something that will improve their possibilities for further studies. Many folk high schools also provide Finnish language studies for immigrants and refugees to support their adaptation process. Most of the folk high schools are situated in the countryside. This provides excellent opportunities for social development and learning from the Finnish culture directly from the Finnish youth. Good motivation and active initiative-taking are necessary for a successful voluntary work period in a folk high school.
- **The volunteers'** work tasks vary according to their skills and interests: from assisting teachers, giving language courses, and organising free-time activities for the students to practical work like helping in the kitchen, library, or office, or gardening and maintenance work. Sometimes it may be possible to combine voluntary work and studying some subjects in the folk high school. In some folk high schools, the volunteers work with immigrant students who study the Finnish language and culture.



C) Kindergarten

- **Kindergartens** are day-care centres for children (aged between 1 and 6 years) whose both parents work during the daytime. Volunteers help the staff with the daily chores such as playing with the children, helping the kids in eating and dressing them into outdoor clothes, and cleaning the kindergarten. We have found the kindergartens to be the best places to learn the language!
- **The volunteers** support the staff of the kindergarten in their daily work. Some volunteers have been placed in English-language or Spanish-language kindergartens or in kindergartens using special pedagogic methods, like Montessori or Steiner. Volunteers who work in a kindergarten are accommodated in host families.



D) Old People's Home

- **Old people's homes** are organisations that take care of elderly people who are not able to live on their own. These homes offer accommodation, care, and daily activities for them. Usually the elderly live in the rooms of one or two people, and the houses include common rooms for all the inhabitants. The homes aim at creating a homely atmosphere.
- **The volunteers** help the staff in daily work tasks, such as assisting the elderly in dining and providing them with different daily activities. It is important that the volunteer is motivated to learn Finnish since the old people often do not know English.



E) School / Educational Institution

- **In the Finnish elementary school**, there are 9 grades (with the possibility for an extra 10th grade) and the children are aged from six to sixteen. Most of the schools in Finland are run by the government. Some schools wish to host volunteers in order to create for the pupils a possibility for intercultural learning and practicing a foreign language.
- **The volunteers** assist the teachers in the daily school work and also help the staff in other tasks like organising international days or other happenings. Some of the volunteers are placed in other educational institutions, such as schools for students with special needs (physical or mental disabilities) and vocational schools.



F) Work with People with Special Needs

- **Some of the work placements** offer education, work, and accommodation services for people with special needs. There might be people with developmental, mental and/or physical disabilities and challenges in learning in these placements. Volunteers work, for instance, in day activity centres, schools, arts & crafts workshops, and communities.
- **The voluntary tasks** with people with disabilities depend on the type of workplace in which the volunteer is working. Work can be very practical: helping people in their everyday duties, such as dining, but at the same time there are opportunities to assist in different types of therapy, art classes, handicraft workshops, agriculture, garden work, animal care, etc. Working with people with special needs can be challenging and requires some patience, especially in the beginning – but it is also very interesting and rewarding. It is important that the volunteer is motivated to learn Finnish since people with disabilities often do not know English.



G) Other Workplaces

- Some projects do not fall into any of the above-mentioned categories. There are, for instance, some cultural projects, non-governmental organisations, and local voluntary centres offering voluntary work placements.

About the Preference List

Please, fill in the "Preference List" form and give it to your sending ICYE organisation. You can find the Preference List attached at the end of this Work Profile. We do our best to find you a suitable voluntary work placement. The more you tell about your interests and personal skills, the more likely the placement meets your wishes.

We nevertheless cannot guarantee you the placement you have chosen and we want to remind you that the wishes are not binding. They only give us an idea of what kind of work you are interested in. We encourage the work placements to contact you and have online meetings with you so that you can get to know each other and find out if the expectations of both of you match.

When you get the information on your voluntary workplace from ICYE Finland, please contact the workplace prior to your arrival in Finland! We will provide you with contact details. Contacting the voluntary workplace is important in order to get a clearer idea of the place you are going to: if you have any questions, you can reach out to your mentor. It is also nice to get to know each other in advance.

Examples of Voluntary Workplaces

On the following pages, you will find examples of some voluntary workplaces we co-operate with. Usually, each workplace hosts one ICYE volunteer at a time but in some cases, there may be two ICYE volunteers at once.

Whether all of the workplaces take a volunteer depends on various factors, such as their financial situation and availability of accommodation. For projects that cannot offer accommodation, ICYE Finland will need to find a host family before we can confirm the placement for the volunteer.

1. Lepola's Kindergarten (kindergarten)
2. The English Kindergarten of Kotka (kindergarten)
3. Kainuu College (folk high school)
4. Mi Casita (kindergarten)
5. Joutseno Folk High School (folk high school)
6. Koskenrinne Home (old people's home)
7. Oljenkorsi Fostr Home Community (child welfare institution)
8. Ristola Community (work with people with special needs)

If you have a disability or a long-term illness, please, consult us about possibilities to volunteer in one of the voluntary workplaces. We will gladly see if there are suitable options available for you. Each description of the voluntary workplaces includes brief accessibility information to give you already a bit of further information.

1. LEPOLA'S KINDERGARTEN



PROJECT CATEGORY Education: kindergarten

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Lepola's kindergarten (*Lepolan päiväkoti* in Finnish) is a public kindergarten in Jokela. It is situated next to a school with which it works in close cooperation. The staff of the kindergarten includes thirteen persons.

PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

There are four groups in the kindergarten, and the children are aged from one to six. There are about 75 children in the kindergarten.

The kindergarten gives quality early childhood and pre-school education. The staff takes care of children and provides them with daycare in a safe environment together with parents and specialists, for example, psychologists and speech therapists. The kindergarten also tries to make days peaceful and unhurried for the children, and a child-centered orientation is very important in the activities of the kindergarten.

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer works as an assistant in a group with children aged from three to five. They also help the staff to organise the daily routines of the kindergarten, such as setting the table, bed-making, clothing arrangement and children's play moments and games. We can offer the volunteers the possibility to experience Finnish daycare and its ways of working. We can teach the volunteers some methods used in daycare work.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The volunteer should have good interaction skills and be motivated to work with kids. We hope that the volunteer will be interested in children and the Finnish daycare system. We also wish that the volunteer is motivated to learn about the local cultural environment and ways of being with children. We hope that the volunteer is spontaneous and brave to meet new challenges.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Tuusula, a municipality in Southern Finland. The municipality is very rural and sparsely populated. It is a home for over 36 000 people. The kindergarten is situated in Jokela, the northern centre of Tuusula, some 40 km away from Helsinki to which there is a train connection. It is a community constructed in a garden-city style; its industrial history is linked with an old brickyard. Several lovely pools are a remnant of the brickyard tradition.

HOST SITUATION

Volunteers live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. In workdays, the volunteers can eat lunch in the lunchroom with the children and co-workers.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Usually 1 volunteer, ICYE long term or IJFD

ACCESSIBILITY

The physical environment of the workplace is suitable for young people with physical disabilities. Wheelchair access is possible through the front door, and there is an accessible toilet in the building. The people working in the kindergarten do not, however, have the possibility to offer continuous intensive support for the volunteer. Unfortunately, the workplace does not have the resources to organise for a volunteer with sensory disabilities the needed support for fruitful interaction with the children.

2. THE ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN OF KOTKA

PROJECT CATEGORY Education: kindergarten

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

The English Kindergarten of Kotka (Kotkan englanninkielinen leikkikoulu in Finnish) offers early childhood education both in English and Finnish for children aged 2–6 years. There are 40-45 children, 3 teachers and 4 nursery nurses in the kindergarten. We use Finnish and English with the children and we encourage volunteers to use English. The kindergarten is run by the Finnish-American Society. Website: <http://www.kotkansay.fi>

PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

In the kindergarten, it is believed that every child is unique. Respect towards others and the environment as well as good manners are valued. Central to the goals of the kindergarten is providing the children with a chance to familiarize themselves with the English language and culture. The mission statement of the kindergarten is "Together with the parents we want to raise our children in a safe and caring environment that will encourage the children to grow into self-motivated, confident, and co-operative individuals. We believe every child is unique and hope to strengthen their self-esteem. We emphasize the importance of good manners as well as important social skills. The children are immersed in the English language through curriculum and play. We hope to instill a sense of global awareness and tolerance of all people."



VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers work and play with the children in various situations during the days. They assist the teachers in different duties and everyday routines. Volunteers also have some daily, assisting cleaning tasks. Work also includes sharing cultural differences and similarities with the staff and the children. Volunteering in the kindergarten offers a chance to improve own skills in English, to learn Finnish as well as to develop social skills and get to know Finnish culture.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The volunteer should be able to communicate in English, be motivated to work and play with children aged 2–6 years, and have good social skills.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The kindergarten is located on the southeast coast of Finland in the city of Kotka, about 130 kilometres away from Helsinki. Kotka is a city of about 55 000 people. Local bus connections are rather good. Kotka offers plenty of possibilities for activities outside of work, e.g. music, gym and team sports.

HOST SITUATION

Volunteers will live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. Breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack are served at the kindergarten during school days. Other meals are provided by the host family.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

1–2 volunteers, ICYE long term or IJFD

ACCESSIBILITY

The physical environment of the workplace is suitable for people with physical disabilities. Wheelchair access is possible through the back door and there is an accessible toilet for a smaller-sized wheelchair. The nearest bust stop is located about 300m away from the kindergarten. However the staff does not have the possibility to continuously offer intensive support for the volunteer. The workplace cannot receive a volunteer with sensory disabilities.

3. KAINUU COLLEGE

PROJECT CATEGORY

Education

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Kainuu College (*Kainuun opisto* in Finnish) is a learning institution and adult education center that is open to all and offers many opportunities. Website: <https://www.kainuunopisto.fi>

PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

The mission of the college is to organise general education and vocational training, provide support, inspiration, and services for hobbies and provide guidance in further learning and active citizenship.

There are about 100 students in the college, and the college has about 20 employees: principals, teachers, secretaries, cleaners, youth and leisure instructors... The values of the college are pietism, Kainuu virtues, balanced and active citizenship as well as a safe culture and environment.



VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers can (depending on their interests) e.g. study Finnish in our courses and assist in English courses – for instance in lessons that focus on speaking English or using the language in different practical situations. They also take part in daily duties, such as duties of the kitchen and office of student affairs, cleaning, and working with the host/hostess of the student dormitory. In addition, they participate in planning and organising student events and happenings. When the volunteer arrives we will plan a schedule together, so that the volunteer will have a chance to participate in the planning of their duties.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The language of the college is Finnish, so we wish that the volunteers would be interested in studying Finnish. To assist in English courses they need some English skills. An open mind, social skills, the ability and motivation to work in a new environment with new people as well as a positive attitude are requested!

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The college is situated in Mieslahti which is a village in the municipality of Paltamo. Mieslahti is located about seven kilometers east of the town center. The village has about 350 inhabitants. The nearest city Kajaani is situated some 29 km away from Mieslahti.

HOST SITUATION

Volunteers live in a dormitory near the workplace. The room is a single room, but the kitchen and washing facilities are shared with others.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Usually 1 volunteer, ICYE long term

ACCESSIBILITY

The physical environment of the workplace is unfortunately not suitable for young people with physical or sensory disabilities. For instance, there are many floors in the buildings but no elevators.

4. KINDERGARTEN MI CASITA

PROJECT CATEGORY

Education: kindergarten

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Mi Casita is a private Spanish language kindergarten. It was established in Helsinki in 1994. The children at the kindergarten are between 0–6 years of age. Mi Casita was founded to provide Spanish-speaking daycare and to offer cultural knowledge of Spanish-speaking countries for children. Website: <http://www.micasita.fi>

PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

The children are mainly Finnish, from Spanish/Finnish-speaking families. All staff members are native Spanish speakers. The kindergarten is funded by the monthly fees paid by the parents, financial support from the City of Helsinki, and by other means of fundraising. Mi Casita has around 40 places for children including a group of pre-school children. Currently, the staff consists of nine employees.

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers do kindergarten work, such as practical tasks and teaching-related duties. They help and support the other employees in handling groups of children. They play with the children and can also teach them games. They also read to the children, take them out, help them with dressing and undressing from outdoor clothes and help them with eating lunch or snacks. The volunteers take part in all activities of the kindergarten. If the kindergarten visits for example museums or other public places, the volunteer will help in taking the children there. Depending on the skills and interests of the volunteers, they can e.g. teach the children music or art, organise theatre with them or instruct sports to them.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers should be motivated to work with children and speak Spanish fluently.

LCOMMUNITY CONTEXT

The kindergarten is located close to the center of the capital city of Finland, Helsinki. There are about 620 000 inhabitants in Helsinki. The city is situated in Southern Finland. The train station is located less than 500 meters from Kindergarten and also other public transportation is very close.

HOST SITUATION

Volunteers live in a host family in the capital area so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Usually 1 volunteer, ICYE long term

ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the kindergarten cannot host a volunteer with a physical or sensory disability.



5. JOUTSENO FOLK HIGH SCHOOL

PROJECT CATEGORY Education (folk high school)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Joutseno folk high school (*Joutsenon opisto* in Finnish) is a folk high school that aims at offering high-quality education and supporting the individual growth of their students. The school focuses on open university studies, language studies and art studies. Joutsenon opisto is a boarding school where the majority of students both live and study. The folk high school has five full-time teachers, about 28 part-time teachers and 11 people in supporting services (administration, kitchen, maintenance). They have some 110–120 students per year. The students come from all over Finland. Website: <http://www.joutsenonopisto.fi>



PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

The syllabus consists of the following programs: Arts Program, English Language Program, Korean Language Program, Japanese Language Program, Intermediate Japanese studies and Finnish Language Course for Immigrants. Sustainable development is important for Joutseno folk high school. Every summer they also have the so called "Joutseno's Art Summer courses" for eight weeks.

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer works with the staff according to one's own interest; in the classroom, office, library or kitchen. The volunteer has a good chance to learn Finnish and to get to know the Finnish school system and Finnish youth.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The most important is the volunteer's attitude towards new people and things. We hope that the volunteer is an open-minded and social person who gets along well with different kinds of people. We also hope that the participant is self-contained enough.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Joutsenon opisto is situated in Lappeenranta, southeastern Finland. Joutseno is a part of the municipality of Lappeenranta. The population of Lappeenranta is about 72.000 and Joutseno about 9.000. The railway station is about two kilometers away from the folk high school and the bus stops are less than one kilometer away.

HOST SITUATION

The volunteer lives at the Joutseno folk high school's student dormitory house where also the students live. The folk high school can offer an own room and full-board from Mondays to Fridays, when the meals are provided at the school restaurant.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Usually 1 volunteer, ICYE long term

ACCESSIBILITY

Because Joutseno folk high school's buildings are quite old, the physical environment of the workplace unfortunately is not suitable for people with physical or sensory disabilities.

6. KOSKENRINNE HOME

PROJECT CATEGORY

Health: elderly (old people's home)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Koskenrinne is a non-profit organisation. The association was founded in 1945 and the first elderly home built in 1955. Koskenrinne provides a large variety of care services for the elderly: it rents apartments and provides day care services, home services incl. cleaning, medical support, day and night care and terminal care. Services are individually planned for each customer. The basis of the existence of Koskenrinne is to fulfil the special needs and requirements that are unique for each old person (incl. health, social activity, rehabilitation) and to improve residency and wellbeing of the elderly. Website: <http://www.koskenrinne.fi>



PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

The volunteer works in the Koskenrinne Home (*Koskenrinteen koti* in Finnish) which is a sheltered home for the elderly. Koskenrinne has four sheltered homes in Kotka, from which the Koskenrinne Home is the biggest with 150 inhabitants and about 60 employees. The other homes are Kotka-Koti, Karhula-Koti and Maria-koti with 50–60 residents each. The total amount of employees is over 100.

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer spends time with the elderly according to each one's own interests and skills. Music, singing, reading, discussing and walking are the most popular activities.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The most important requirement is the volunteer's own interest to spend time with the elderly.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Koskenrinne is located in Kotka in southern Finland. The bus trip to Helsinki takes two hours. Kotka is a middle-sized city with some 54 000 inhabitants. The location is by the sea, and there are beautiful parks in Kotka.

HOST SITUATION

Accommodation is provided by a local host family. The lunch is served at the workplace and other meals provided by the host family.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Usually 1 volunteer, ICYE long term

ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the voluntary workplaces does not have the resources to host volunteers with physical or sensory disabilities.

7. OLJENKORSI FOSTER HOME COMMUNITY

PROJECT CATEGORY

- Human rights: children's rights
- Environmental/green projects: ecologically friendly agriculture

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Oljenkorsi is a family run foster home for children on an organic farm. The aim of Oljenkorsi is to provide the children a safe place to grow, so that they could live their lives happily. The values of the community are respect for others and sense of community.

<https://www.oljenkorsi.com>



PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

Oljenkorsi is a foster home for children aged 0–18 years. At the moment there are seven children living in the community, placed to Oljenkorsi by the social services. The children have different types of backgrounds and some also have special needs, like learning challenges. The work of Oljenkorsi includes also activities on the farm, for example taking care of the domestic animals. In Oljenkorsi, there are horses, sheep, cattle, and chicken.

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer will participate in the different activities of the community, such as supporting the children living in the community. This includes taking part in organising activities such as games for the children and helping them with their homework and during the meal times. The volunteer will be assisting staff members and will never be alone responsible for the children. The volunteer will also help with taking care of the domestic animals on the farm, by feeding and brushing the horses, for example. There are also some tasks in the garden and fields. The volunteer enriches the community by bringing in an intercultural learning element to the everyday life of the countryside community.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

We are looking for a volunteer with an open mind, good social skills, and motivation to work with children (some with special needs and challenges). It is also important to be motivated to participate in the farm work and take care of domestic animals, as well as living in the countryside close to nature and away from the city.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Oljenkorsi is situated in a peaceful countryside location in Orimattila, in Southern Finland. Orimattila is a town with about 16 000 inhabitants. The public transportation is not so good in the area, but the community staff will support volunteer getting around and there is also a possibility to borrow a car if volunteer has a driving license.

HOST SITUATION

The accommodation is provided in Oljenkorsi, so the volunteer both lives and works in the community. The volunteer will share the bathroom facilities with the Oljenkorsi community. The meals will be provided by Oljenkorsi community.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM, ACCESSIBILITY

1, ICYE and IJFD long term. The house Oljenkorsi has two floors with stairs outside and inside the building. Due to the challenging situations of the children placed at Oljenkorsi, co-operation with volunteers with disabilities could be challenging for the community to organise.

8. RISTOLA COMMUNITY

PROJECT CATEGORY

Health: disability (work with people with special needs)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Ristola Community (Ristola-yhteisö in Finnish) is a Waldorf pedagogical training school for young adults with special needs. The functions of the Ristola Community are based on curative education and social therapy inspired by Rudolf Steiner. The basis is an anthroposophical perception of a human being. The aim is to support the students to learn basic life skills and to become independent young adults. <https://ristola-yhteiso.fi>

PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

In Ristola Community, there are 36 student places available for young people with different special needs from age 18 on. The education lasts for five years. The students learn traditional handicrafts (textile, wood work, ceramics, and metal) and theoretical and artistic subjects. Ristola has an own kitchen in which the daily food is prepared.

VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Through welcoming international volunteers to Ristola, we wish to offer the students with special needs opportunities to experience and learn from different cultures and languages. As a volunteer, you will help the teachers and staff in their work of supporting the students to learn basic life skills and to become independent young adults, as well as teaching traditional handicrafts and theoretical and artistic subjects. The tasks may include kitchen work at Ristola's own kitchen, too.

VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

We are looking for an open-minded and active volunteer who is motivated to work with young people with special needs. Some skills and interest in handicrafts will be helpful and musical skills would be a great addition.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Ristola Community is situated in the capital of Finland, Helsinki, in the Southern Finland. Ristola is located in an area called Metsälä, about 6 km away from the center of Helsinki, nearby the nature and outdoor recreation area Central Park. The public transport connections include train and bus, and during the summer season public bicycles, too. A public transport ticket will be offered for the volunteer.

HOST SITUATION

The volunteer will live in a school guest room with a shared bathroom. The volunteer will have access to sauna and the laundry room of Ristola Community. The meals are provided by Ristola Community at the school restaurant (lunch) and cooking independently (other meals).

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM, ACCESSIBILITY

1–2 volunteers, ICYE/IJFD long term. The buildings of Ristola, including the school guest room, are wheelchair accessible. Ristola, unfortunately, has very limited possibilities to support for volunteers with disabilities as their resources go towards supporting the young adults with special needs who study at Ristola.



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MAAILMANVAIHTO – ICYE FINLAND WORK PROFILE 2024–25

PREFERENCE LIST

Please indicate in order of preference your 5 most favoured voluntary workplace types (indicate in order of preference from 1 to 5). We try our best to place everybody to their favoured type of a workplace, but unfortunately this is not always possible. So, please be prepared to make compromises.

- _____ Child welfare institution
- _____ Folk high school
- _____ Kindergarten
- _____ Old people's home
- _____ School / Educational institution
- _____ Work with people with special needs
- _____ Other: _____

Would you like to be placed in (mark with X):

- _____ City
- _____ Countryside
- _____ No preferences

Would you prefer working with (indicate in order of preference from 1 to 5):

- _____ Children
- _____ People with disabilities
- _____ Elderly
- _____ Immigrants
- _____ Socially excluded

Why would you prefer working in this type of voluntary workplace?

What are your expectations towards volunteer work?

Describe your skills and previous experiences which might help you in this voluntary work.

Additional information if needed:

__ I allow Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland to handle and store the information given in this form and to share it with its voluntary workplaces. Maailmanvaihto will handle and store the information according to its [Privacy Policy on the documents of incoming volunteers \(please see https://maailmanvaihto.fi/en/privacy-policy-documents-of-incoming-volunteers\)](https://maailmanvaihto.fi/en/privacy-policy-documents-of-incoming-volunteers). In case you would like further information about the handling and storage of the information, please contact hosting@maailmanvaihto.fi.

Volunteer & Country _____

Voluntary Work Year _____

Signature _____