



Volunteer Information Letter

1. Volunteers must commit for a minimum of six (6) months.
2. Volunteers should obtain an appropriate visa and contact the school for advice.
3. Owing to the number of volunteer requests we receive returning volunteers are normally limited to a returning cycle of three years.
4. Volunteer applications must be formalized through the FHS website Volunteer Application Form.
5. Volunteers fall into the following categories: ☐ Adult over 21 or Graduate Volunteer ☐ Gap Volunteer under 21 ☐ Honorary teachers. We do not take volunteers of school age or currently at school.
6. The total number of volunteers at any one time is six (6), excluding category C above. FHS seeks the following balance in volunteer staff: ☐ 4 adult ☐ 2 Gap It is not always possible to ensure gender balance, but we make every effort to do so.
7. While we are happy to discuss volunteering, it is essential that a Volunteer Application Form is completed otherwise the application will not be processed. Volunteers pay a modest rent for external accommodation and may eat meals at FHS and the FHS Homes in Kolkata. There is a roster for evening engagements with our home children. As a present guide only, one should allow for living expenses per month, including rent, of approximately 300 GBP per person.
8. It is essential that prospective volunteers read all materials thoroughly. Before taking up an appointment each volunteer is required to sign a Formal Undertaking and the FHS Child Protection Policy. Prospective volunteers must cooperate fully with FHS in procuring all necessary clearances and documents relevant to undertaking such a position of responsibility.
9. Volunteers must dress in an appropriate manner for a school campus –international and national dress, casual and sporting attire. As mentors to the young, volunteers carry the same expectations as any member of our teaching staff. Smoking and drinking on campus or in sight of children are strictly forbidden habits. Smoking in school premises is not at all allowed. ‘Revealing clothes’ are not permitted. Hair of any length should be neat and tidy. Cleanliness is important. When socializing it is important to remember that volunteers represent Future Hope in public.
10. While we are happy to welcome people to the school there is a limit to how many we can accommodate in the interests of the children’s education and privacy. Volunteers are not permitted to invite family, friends or guests to the school without the prior knowledge of the Principal. The offer of a volunteer’s place is for that person only. Family and friends of volunteers who visit will need to find their own accommodation, if required.
11. It is essential for volunteers to check their medical insurance before joining us. While Indian hospitals are not expensive by international standards, Future Hope cannot ultimately pay for personal medical bills incurred during a volunteer’s stay. We have a strong relationship with one of the major



hospitals in Kolkata and have helped several volunteers in need of urgent medical treatment beyond what our excellent school doctor can provide in the form of free, basic medications for coughs & colds, headaches, malaria, and mild infections. It is simply wise to get good coverage while overseas.

12. Volunteers at FHS really enjoy their time with us. For most, it is a life-changing experience. While there is a sensible balance between work and free time (part days and one day off per week), there is a strong expectation that volunteers will be committed deeply to the welfare of the children and very supportive of our programmes. Volunteers need to be independent, pro-active and self-sufficient adults.

13. Kolkata is a very historic city, busy beyond belief, rich in culture, growing, beautiful, ugly, filthy, warm at heart, green, polluted, always surprising, crumbling, smelly, young, old, immensely rich, devastatingly poor, sporty, clubby, fashion conscious, beggars, very humid, sodden, mild, sunny...etc... etc. It is undergoing immense change but its sensibilities are still very much rooted in an ordered chaos, friendliness, tradition and a remnant colonial past. It will provide you with an experience commensurate with your ability to accept confronting paradoxes but also a wonderful people. It will also serve as a marvelous base from which to set off on other journeys if you so choose while staying here. As with so many volunteers who reach their last day at Future Hope, it will be very hard to say 'goodbye.' The friendships you make will be significant and the children will remain unforgettable. You will receive more than you can possibly ever give.