

# Teaching Management Plan

## Ecuador



### OVERVIEW

#### Company Mission

Our mission is to encourage young people to volunteer for worthwhile work in developing countries. We expect that doing this kind of voluntary work will in time become the norm. As more and more people join us, we aim to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve, to learn, to understand, to teach, to inspire, and to be inspired.

#### Teaching Programme Mission

Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multi-national community.

#### Background Information

The Galapagos Islands are an archipelago of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean, just west of continental Ecuador. Famed for their great variety of different species of animals and birds, the Galapagos Islands is a vital tourist hub for Ecuador.

Though the country has made great progress towards universal primary education and the youth literacy rate is high at 99%<sup>i</sup>, there remain large disparities and achievement gaps between the level and quality of education provided in public and private institutions, in urban and rural areas<sup>ii</sup>. Rural schools suffer from a serious lack of resources, and the students-to-teacher ratio is high, causing difficulties in classroom management and teaching methods.

#### Partners

Projects Abroad Ecuador is registered as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). For our teaching projects, we work alongside the Ministry of Education and with local schools in the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on the island of San Cristobal in the Galapagos Islands.

We also run courses taught by our volunteers for children, teenagers and adults within our own Projects Abroad centre in town.

### GOALS

In order to work towards our Teaching programme mission, we have set the following goals to achieve in the placements where we send our volunteers:

#### 1. Improve English

The Galapagos Islands being such an important tourist destination within Ecuador, it is vital the local are able to speak English to develop the tourism industry, communicate with tourists, and improve their employment prospects by, for example, working as tour guides or National Park guides. English has also undeniably become the global language for business so a better command of the language can help develop on an international basis and become economically successful. Volunteers, in particular native speakers, can offer invaluable help in improving the students' and also the teachers'

phonetics, pronunciation and grammar. We also set up conversation classes to improve the student's oral skills and capacity to participate in "real life" conversations.

## 2. Improve classroom support

With large classes and very limited resources, it is difficult for teachers to maintain discipline, deliver creative teaching methods and offer personalised support to students struggling to keep up. We aim to introduce new rules and discipline methods as well as relieve pressure for teachers by dividing the class into small groups, organising remedial classes for slower learners, and encouraging students in their work.

## RESOURCES

<b>Human Resources</b>	Average 70 Teaching volunteers per year Projects Abroad global staff teams Placement staff support
<b>Physical Resources</b>	Projects Abroad offices Placement materials
<b>Online Resources</b>	Volunteer Resources Database Myprojectsabroad webpages
<b>Financial Resources</b>	Monthly budgets for overall operations Donations to specific projects or placements
<b>Intangible Resources</b>	Reputation in destination communities Goodwill; genuine desire to help Expertise

Projects Abroad provides a range of resources for each of our programmes. These fall into four interdependent categories:

**Human:** Volunteers themselves are our most crucial asset in achieving our goals. Through their creativity and energy, all of our ambitions can be realised. Another central support team is our extensive network of Projects Abroad staff worldwide, dedicated to supporting volunteers and achieving our company mission. We also depend greatly on the staff in all of our placements; whose support guides volunteers through their daily activities.

**Physical:** Projects Abroad has offices in all of our destinations, where volunteers can come to speak to staff or attend workshops. There are also office materials and placement supplies available to volunteers.

**Online:** The Volunteers Resources Database and myprojectsabroad webpages all provide vital support before, during and after their placements.

**Financial:** Funds for all of Projects Abroad’s work come solely from volunteer placement fees. These are distributed via monthly budgets, to ensure fair allocation of funds for each destination. Occasionally volunteers may also send donations directly for a specific placement or project.

**Intangible:** The good reputation of volunteers in local communities is what makes our work possible. This reputation has been earned over years of dedicated volunteer contribution. This is supported by the combined knowledge of our extensive staff network. With over 700 staff across every continent, we are proud to be a diverse and accomplished team.

## MONITORING & EVALUATION

- Placement visits
- Volunteer workshop sessions
- Staff meetings
- Volunteer Resources Database
- Feedback evaluation

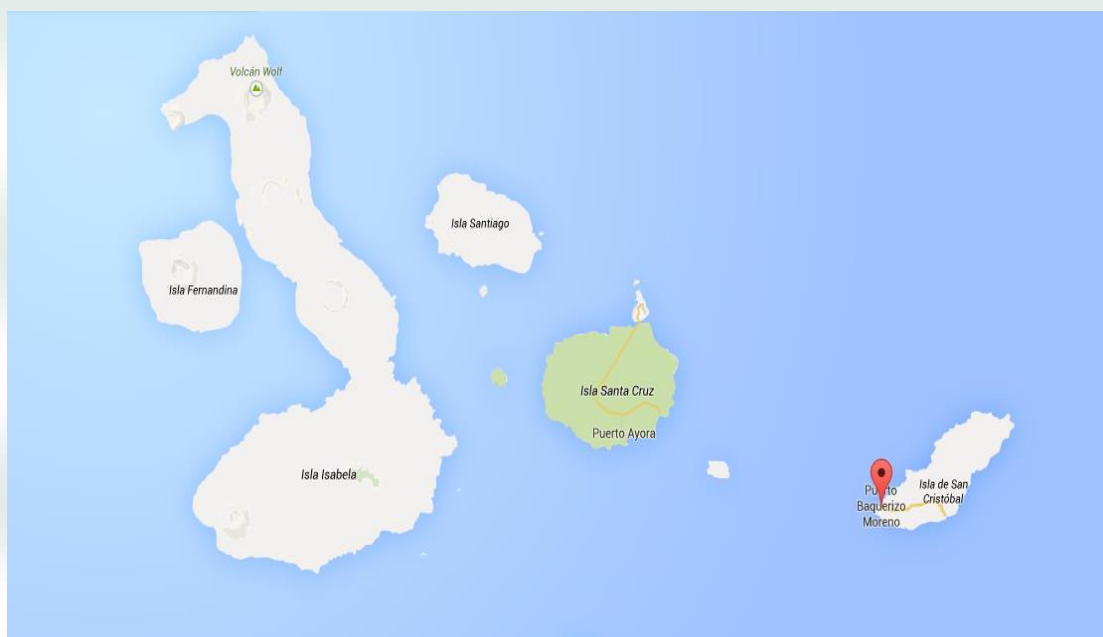
**Physical monitoring:** Through placement visits and volunteer workshops, volunteers are in frequent contact with staff members, who will observe and advise volunteers in action. Staff participate in regular meetings to discuss best practices within and between destinations.

**Online monitoring:** The Volunteer Resource Database is platform for staff and volunteers to share and develop ideas.

**Feedback evaluation:** Feedback from placement staff, Projects Abroad staff and volunteers is continuously gathered and used to inform future plans.

## LOCATION OF PLACEMENTS

Our Teaching projects in Ecuador are based in the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on the island of San Cristobal in the Galapagos Islands.



<sup>i</sup> [http://www.epdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/EPDC%20NEP\\_Ecuador.pdf](http://www.epdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/EPDC%20NEP_Ecuador.pdf)

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<sup>ii</sup> <http://pulitzercenter.org/projects/south-america-ecuador-migration-public-education>