

# Teaching Centre



## Overview

**Location** Cape Town, South Africa.

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**Duration** From 4 weeks.

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**Dates** This project operates during school terms. It is closed during all school holidays and public holidays.

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- Requirements**
- Minimum age: 18.
  - You must have a high Intermediate level of English (please complete our English test on <http://www.goodhopevolunteers.com>).
  - Special skills: It is an advantage to have worked with children before. You need a love for children and you should display sensitivity and empathy.
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**Your impact** 

The impact of your volunteer work depends on the nature of the project. In addition, it may also depend on whether the project offers a full volunteering experience or a combination of volunteering and tourism. For details, please see the description of the project and what's included in the project fees.

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**Documents required** Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance, police clearance certificate.

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**Day of arrival** Thursday.

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**Day of departure** Saturday.

## Highlights

- Work with lovely children in a structured and welcoming environment.
- Leave a lasting impact in the lives of the children you work with.
- Slogan “Words can change Worlds” – encourage children, parents and communities securing a better education for children.
- Help in creating a nation of readers, seeing how each individual child develops.
- Receive personal support from the volunteer coordinator.
- Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around Cape Town.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

## Project information



Many parents and caregivers choose to send their children to inner-city schools, far from where they actually live, in the hope of them receiving a better education. English is usually the language used to teach in these schools and is, for most children, a second language. Larger classes add to the challenges of children whose below the norm literacy levels put them ‘at risk’.

The teaching centres provide individualised support to children to strengthen their English reading, writing and speaking skills. These children are chosen based on their level of need and the level of competency the volunteers can provide.

This project also brings benefits for the whole school, not just for those children who attend this programme. Classrooms with young learners are also equipped with multi-cultural, age-appropriate storybooks to promote a culture of reading throughout the school.

Using the slogan ‘**Words can Change Worlds**’, the Teaching Centre successfully encourages children, parents, schools and communities to work in partnership at a critical stage in early childhood development in order to secure a better education for these children.

### Programme details

The Teaching Centre provides support in language and reading for children in Grades 1, 2 and 3 who may need some extra help with learning. Based in schools, trained volunteers sit with one to two children for an hour a week during school hours, to grow their love of books and reading. The project currently works in



eight centres operating in seven schools around Cape Town. The project looks for keenness and flexibility in the volunteers who apply, plus the ability to think independently and use initiative. Applicants should be hard working, with a willingness to adapt to the situation, have a sense of humor, display an ability to be able to work in a team and have the awareness that they can help change lives with this work. Every little connection and task that you are involved with during the day will help with the project's quest, which is to make a meaningful and positive difference to the education of the children we work with.

### Your role

Monday – Friday, from 09:00 – 13:00 (though this will vary from centre to centre – different centres start at different times).

A possible work schedule could be:

- 09:00 Arrival at the centre and assist the centre manager in preparing for the day. Possibly help fetch the children.
- 09:00-10:00 Teach either one or two children for the first literacy hour session.
- 10:00-11:00 Walk the children back to class; gather materials for the second session; assist the centre manager; tea/coffee break; gather children for the second session.
- 11:00-12:00 Teach either one or two children for the second literacy hour session.
- 12:00-13:00 Put materials away; help the centre manager to organise materials in the room, etc.

Generally, the role can include:

- Teaching learners during literacy hour (on your first day, you will be trained how to do this).
- Assisting the centre manager with creating and organising resources and photocopying.
- Possibly assisting with training, assessment and parent workshops, depending on the time of year.

The centre runs a parent workshop on Saturday mornings/afternoons and your assistance would be very much appreciated although it is not mandatory.

**It is important to note that this description serves as an example only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the volunteer and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.**

## Arrival

You will need to arrive on a Thursday at Cape Town International Airport. Our driver will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation.

After an orientation meeting at the language school in Newlands on Friday, your first day of volunteering will be on Monday.

## Accommodation

You will live at the Volunteer House. It is a private house in an upmarket residential area and consists of rooms with 2 single beds and 2 bunk beds. There are 4 bathrooms to share, a communal kitchen, a dining room, a lounge with TV and DVD and a beautiful garden with a swimming pool. A commercial laundry service is close by. Bedding is provided. Towels will be not provided.



### Meals

Self-catering. The main shopping areas as well as restaurants, pubs, etc. are within walking distance of the Volunteer House. Also, the Teaching Centre is close to shops, cafes and grocery stores.

### Free time

Together with other volunteers and language students from Good Hope Studies you can take part in the entertainment programme of the Social Club. There are organised events, outings and tours most evenings and at the weekends. To find out about the current programme, go to [www.goodhopevolunteers.com](http://www.goodhopevolunteers.com).

### How to get to the project

This project can be reached by MetroRail or bus. Weekly costs are around € 6,40 / US\$ 8. Alternatively you can also use Uber which has recently become popular in Cape Town.

### What to bring

There are no special requirements in this regard but we recommend bringing comfortable, practical clothes. Please note that the teaching centres are very hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Anything else you might need is readily available at local supermarkets in South Africa.

While there is no specific uniform, volunteers are asked to wear sensible clothing, e.g. long shorts and closed shoes. Hot pants, string bikinis and flip-flops are not suitable for work.

### Medical insurance

It is required that you take out medical insurance before travelling to South Africa. For stays exceeding 90 days, it is compulsory to take out a South African medical insurance. We recommend NetworX from Compcare, which is specifically designed for people who visit South Africa for 3 to 12 months. You will receive an information leaflet and an application form together with your confirmation of booking.

### Health

No vaccinations are required except for travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, where anti-malaria precautions are recommended. Clients should consult their doctor for recommendations.

A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire.

South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.



Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in South Africa.

It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in South Africa.

## Safety

HIV and AIDS are a major public health concern. You should be aware that you are working with children that could be affected.

## What's included / not included

### Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival
- Accommodation (Volunteer House: shared room, shared bathroom, self-catering)
- Full-day excursion on the first Saturday
- A donation towards the project
- Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
- Weekly site visits by our coordinator
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Participation in the activities of the Social Club (extra charges may apply)
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
- WiFi

### Not included:

- Food
- Local transport
- Any items of a personal nature

## When combining with a language course

When you participate in a language course before you start at this project the day of arrival is Sunday and the free full-day excursion on the first Saturday is not applicable.

## Visa

You can volunteer in South Africa on a visitor's visa for up to 90 days.

Nationals from certain countries (e.g. Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, Netherlands, Spain) will receive their visa when entering South Africa. Other nationals need to apply for a visitor's visa at a South African Embassy in their home country before travelling.

If you come to South Africa on a visitor's visa, you can extend once by another 90 days.



If you plan to come for more than 90 days, you need to apply for a visa at a South African Embassy in your home country.

For the latest information contact the South African Embassy or Good Hope Volunteers.