



ERASMUS+ Volunteering projects – INSPIRE

Dear potential volunteers, partners and friends,

We would like to inform you about our upcoming volunteering vacancies, tell you more about Inspire, and give you any idea of how you could one day be a part of our wonderful team.

Inspire is a Hosting and Coordinating organization. We host 12 Erasmus+ volunteers a year with starting dates which vary according to our circumstances which do at times change. The details of what we are looking for are as follows:

Position: Volunteer working within the disabilities programme at Inspire

When: Immediately

Duration: 9 or 12 months

How to apply:

Send your CV and motivation letter to the project coordinator on ina.baldzhieva@inspire.org.mt or janicekay.mamo@inspire.org.mt.

Application deadline: 30.09.2021

INFORMATION ABOUT HOSTING ORGANISATION (INSPIRE)

Inspire is one of the largest NGO's in Malta. It is a non-profit organization which works within the community, providing persons with disabilities with the support, care and assistance required to allow them to improve their daily lives. We operate over 3 sites, employing roughly -150 persons and engaging the help of a large number of volunteers to assist us in our daily work.

THE VOLUNTEERING PROJECT

Inspire has a number of programmes which the volunteers assist us with, including the STEP programme, STAR, SOP and LinC (see website for further information about such programmes). However, the ERASMUS+ volunteers work mainly within the programmes which has been designed for children with disabilities, their main aim being to satisfy the educational and therapeutic needs of the

children in a fun and social environment. Such children attend our sites in Marsascala or Bulebel to take part in a number of activities, namely Therapeutic Horseback riding, Hydrotherapy and Multi-sensory therapy. These programmes are provided at no cost to the children and it is for this reason that we rely on committed volunteers to assist us, guided and trained of course by experienced and qualified staff.

Volunteers receive on-the-job and formal training, allowing them to assist our staff in these activities. It is fun, demanding and varied work but it can also be hard and challenging at times.

SOCIAL AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

At Inspire we have a lot of experience welcoming large groups of volunteers from all over Europe. The ESC team is quite large, and for this reason the volunteers often form what feels like a family away from home. Inspire rents out -apartments for the ESC volunteers, all within 10 minutes walk from the Marsaskala site. 3 persons live in each apartment, sharing the common areas but with the privacy of their own bedroom. As we have a gym and indoor pool on site, ESC volunteers are given free membership and may use such facilities in their free time. They also have the benefit of online English lessons, and all the information and assistance required from Inspire staff.

ACTIVITIES

Despite the fixed project description, we believe in flexibility and in giving volunteers the opportunity to try new things and gain as much experience they can in the 9-12 months they are with us. In this way, volunteers can take charge of their own learning and growth, and we will be there to guide them as necessary. Volunteers work alongside Inspire's trained therapists and tutors, allowing them valuable experience and the opportunity to pick up valuable skills in working within the disabilities field. The tasks the volunteers are involved with are quite varied, and this prevents volunteers feeling bored and enables them to gain a wide range of experience and get a real feel of the organisation.

What kind of work with the ESC volunteers be doing while at Inspire?

The volunteers work 5 days per week with 2 days off (not necessarily the weekend), ---35 - 38 hours per week. They may work just in the morning, just in the afternoon, or both, depending on scheduled activities.

In the mornings, the volunteers work in the, in the following activities:

Therapeutic Horseback Riding

Multi-sensory therapy

Hydrotherapy

Arts and crafts

LinC programme

STEP programme

-

STAR programme
Administration

In the afternoons the volunteers work in the following activities:

Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Swimming sessions
Therapeutic sessions

As Inspire is a registered charity, a great deal of our funds are obtained through fundraising activities. Such activities make use of many local volunteers but we often ask the ESC volunteers to help us on the days of the events. These are hard work but fun, and past events include charity marathons, music festivals, sporting events, themed parties and much more. Most of these activities take place on the weekend, and volunteers who work on the weekend are given the option of a day off during the week or to add another day of leave to their annual entitlement which is quite handy for volunteers planning to have family and friends visiting or who want to travel a bit while on their ESC.

PROFILE OF THE INSPIRE VOLUNTEER

The volunteering experience is open to all persons with EU and non EU nationality aged between 18-30 and we believe that everyone should be given equal chance, irrespective of educational background, experience and social circumstances. As Inspire works with children with disabilities and because this work is often quite challenging and specialised, we find that having ESC volunteers with some experience of working with persons with disabilities benefits the children we work with. However, this doesn't mean that those without experience or qualifications in the field are not chosen. On the contrary. Everyone has different skills and experiences to offer and it's the motivation and will to help that is the most important and what we take into account most when choosing our volunteers.

Inspire's basic requirements are:

Be able to work in a team

You will be working within a team of volunteers and staff members, which means that if one person doesn't pull their weight, the others have to work extra to make up for this person. This creates frustration and tension and is not fair!

Not being allergic to animal fur or scared of animals

A great deal of your work will involve being around animals, so an allergy to animal fur or a fear of particular animals would be quite a problem and not very pleasant!

You need to love being around children

Most of our work involves being around kids, so if you have no patience with children, this is not the project for you. Keep in mind that working with children with disabilities can often be quite challenging so you need to be extra patient, gentle and really persevere. The rewards, however, make the extra effort worthwhile.

Being able to communicate in English

Malta is a bilingual country and most people speak Maltese and English. We don't expect you to speak Maltese but English is a must. Many of our children already struggle to communicate, so having volunteers who cannot understand English would only cause the children more frustration.

Being motivated

A project which lasts 9-12 months needs motivated volunteers. Please let us know why you want to volunteer with us.

Be willing to get your hands dirty

Our project involves a lot of physical work, including gardening, light maintenance, cleaning, feeding and grooming the horses as well as cleaning the stables and the arena. This means you need to be fairly physically fit and able to lift things, including children 😊

IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR SENDING ORGANISATION

- Inspire will pay the Sending organisation 40 Euro per month for every volunteer sent. For further information and conditions, please email the project coordinator.
- The SO is responsible for purchasing the flight tickets of the volunteer. Inspire will absorb 10% of the travel costs not covered by the EVS grant. The remainder will be transferred to the SO's bank account as stipulated in the Activity Agreement.