

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/project/1821_en

Start: 1st of October 2017

End: 30th of June 2018

Spots: 1

Application deadline: 31st of March 2017

Pocket money:

Location: Rue Monulphe 78, 4000 Liège Belgium

Project description: IRHOV, the hosting organization is a primary and secondary school for young people (between 3 and 21 years) with hearing or visual impairment. Most of the young visually impaired volunteers who apply for an experience abroad know little or nothing at all about specialized education, as they attended mainstream schools. This project will enable them to meet young people who study in a specialised school. They will thus have the chance to compare the two types of experience and to talk about them with the young pupils they will get in contact with during their service. Volunteers can:

- help to better understand difficulties related to visual impairment, even when specific material is available;
- strengthening links with families and between families;
- ensuring the links between people responsible for extracurricular activities (sport day, theatre, reading) and the young pupils;
- giving a positive image of visual impairment to young pupils from the mainstream school.

Volunteer profile: This project mainly targets young visually impaired people. In order to better adapt to the daily tasks, the volunteer must have a basic knowledge of French (beginner level). The volunteer will be motivated and will have the desire to be integrated in the working team. Besides, the volunteer will strive for the autonomy and integration necessary in his private and daily life, both with his housemates and his multicultural neighbours. Being open and knowing how to listen are essential qualities for the tasks that the volunteer will be required to carry out.

Training during the project: During the first two weeks, the volunteers don't work: they benefit from orientation and mobility classes (to learn to go to places for daily life and work, routes, shops in the neighbourhood), as well as from daily living skills sessions (to prepare meals, do the shopping, do the laundry and take care of the linen and the house, first aid), and intensive French classes, so as to make them as autonomous. All along the project they will get support regarding their special needs from the coordinating association, Views International

Accommodation: The volunteer will live with other young visually impaired volunteers in an apartment; kitchen, bathroom and toilet will be shared, whereas bedrooms are individual. The apartment is a 20-minute walk from the service placement. The centre of town is also at walking distance (25 minutes): an urban neighbourhood close to the

centre, but calm and green nonetheless. The volunteer will get a monthly sum of pocket money and food & household money. He will manage his budget according to his needs.

Additional information: The young volunteers will benefit from specific support, a reinforced mentorship based on a personalized approach, adapted to the specific needs of every volunteer. Every volunteer will benefit from a mentor throughout the whole project.

The mentor gives a multi-faceted support to the volunteer, to ensure his physical, mental and health well-being; he encourages the discovery of the hosting country, support the volunteer to interact and integrate in an intercultural environment, and accompanies him in his activities. The tutorship rests on listening and empathy.

Participants with fewer opportunities:

This organisation has a physical environment suitable for young people with physical, sensory or other disabilities (such as wheelchair access and similar).

This organisation has additional mentoring or other support suitable for young people with social obstacles, educational difficulties, cultural differences or similar.

How to apply: Whenever there are new available places, they will be announced on our website (www.viewsinternational.eu), as well as in the VIEWS NEWSletter and in our international mailing list; the volunteer will have to send us a motivational letter, a language skills certificate and a CV.