

Puente Cultural Service and Teaching Abroad Grant

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Teaching/Volunteering Opportunity in Cuenca, Ecuador
for Recent Graduate who is Spanish
proficient

This year-long commitment involves volunteering at Fundación El Arenal, an alternative education center for children and adolescents of Cuenca, and teaching English at CEDEI, a popular language school in Cuenca.

The “Puente Cultural” Grant has two primary objectives:

- 1.)to facilitate a cross cultural experience for a recent graduate with high Spanish proficiency who demonstrates financial need.
- 2.)to support El Arenal Foundation and its programs for children of working families.

The ideal student will possess the following qualities:

- 2017 Graduate with high Spanish proficiency
- Willingness to commit to living at least 11 months in Ecuador –from mid June, 2017, to late May, 2018
- Financial need—an indication that the student would not be able to live abroad without financial help
- Interest in helping and teaching children of all ages
- Willingness to volunteer 20 hours per week at EL Arenal Foundation as an ESL teacher for Ecuadorian children ages 10-18 (unpaid volunteer work).
- Desire to become a TEFL certified ESL instructor
- Willingness to work 20 hours per week as an ESL instructor at CEDEI language school (paid work).
- Willingness to maintain a report/ blog/ facebook page about this experience.
- priority will be given to students of Ohio State University or Augsburg College

The grant (estimated value at \$6,000) will provide:

- Safe and secure housing with an Ecuadorian family at no cost
- Roundtrip flights costs
- Costs of work visa
- Costs of four week TEFL certification training program at CEDEI
https://www.cedei.org/en/internacionales-eng/programs-and-fees/certificate-in-teaching-english-as-a-foreign-language-tefl?highlight=WyJOZWZsliwidGVmbCcsll0=#.WDrquneZP_R

- Medical insurance while in Ecuador through CEDEI and insurance supplement for emergency evacuation (or if the applicant has medical insurance, supplement only)

What grant recipient will need to cover:

- Daily living expenses (which can be paid for by money earned as CEDEI language teacher at a rate of \$7.00 per hour/20 hrs. per week beginning in month of September)
- Daily living expenses for months of mid-June through beginning of September when paid work begins at CEDEI (Housing will be provided free)

Timetable:

- January 31: Application deadline for program starting June 2017
- February: Selection committee meets
- End of February-Finalists selected
- March: M. Raderstorf interviews with finalists (via skype or in person)
- Early April: Grant notification
- April 15: Deadline for recipient to sign a commitment
- April - May: Pre-departure orientation (skype meeting with family, phone call M. Raderstorf, work visa paperwork, insurance set up, etc.)
- Mid-June 2017: Grant recipients arrives in Cuenca
- Mid-June to mid-July 2017: Month-long TEFL training program at CEDEI
- Mid-July, 2017 to mid-May 2018: Volunteer 20 hours per week at El Arenal foundation
- September, 2017 to mid-May, 2018 Work 20 hours per week at CEDEI at rate of \$7 per hour

Interested students please fill out to Google Form Application by January 31, 2017 for program to begin June, 2017

Here is the link to the application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kNfJx6GdW4qgRx_D_eiDeF55qKi-sn8Q1Dizmo-o-4g/edit?ts=5833ae3e

Questions? Send to Mark.raderstorf@gmail.com