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

- 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