

Experiential Learning Abroad Program

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ELAP MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide enriching volunteer opportunities to participants. We also strive to enhance each participant's understanding of community and social responsibility within our global society.

ELAP AT A GLANCE

ELAP is the division of ISA that focuses on service learning through volunteering and occasional internships. ELAP encourages you to help the organization in which you are placed as well as help strengthen its respective community. ELAP can improve life skills considered valuable by future employers such as problem-solving, the ability to collaborate in an international setting, and strong interpersonal communication. Furthermore, volunteering abroad through ELAP is an excellent way to immerse yourself in another country's way of life and will result in a greater understanding of the language and culture.

Patience, personal initiative, reliability, and self-motivation are key characteristics of a successful participant, as well as flexibility, an open mind, and the desire to participate and learn. ELAP can impact your personal development and has the ability to change your perspective of the world.

Most placements require a minimum commitment of ten hours of volunteering per week. Occasionally, business and administrative internships are available, and these often require a longer time commitment to the host organization.

Spanish proficiency is also required due to the intensive nature of the program. Please consult the Spanish Language Requirement section on the next page. The resident staff will support you throughout your program, help you adjust to your volunteer assignment, as well as facilitate your orientation and reflection exercises. They also coordinate with the host organizations before and during your program. In addition, the resident staff makes a donation (on behalf of ISA/ELAP) to the organization once you have successfully completed your placement.

ELAP may be incorporated into an ISA academic semester or trimester or pursued as an individual program independent of a study abroad component. During the summer, participants interested in studying abroad can apply for ELAP following an ISA program. Placements usually start on the same date as ISA academic programs. Please contact ELAP to discuss placement options; see the following page for contact information.

In order to earn academic credit, you must make arrangements with your home university before your program begins. ELAP provides support during this process.

The following is a list of program sites and examples of placements. Some categories vary between sites. Please contact ELAP for more details.

ELAP PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES						
	Social Work	Education	Ecology/ Conservation	Health	Policy and Legislation	Museums
ELAP PROGRAM SITES	Guanajuato, México	●	●	●	●	●
	San José, Costa Rica	●	●	●	●	●
	Santiago, Dominican Republic	●	●		●	
	Valparaíso, Chile	●	●			
	Buenos Aires, Argentina	●	●			
	Lima, Perú	●	●			
ISA students participating on a semester program in Madrid, Granada, Sevilla, or Santander, may ask their resident staff about volunteer opportunities upon their arrival in-country. During the semester, resident staff will help to facilitate these volunteer opportunities for ISA students.						

All programs include room and board, medical insurance, pre-departure information and advising, support of the ISA resident staff, volunteer or internship placement, on-site orientation, cultural activities, an excursion, and Spanish language instruction and tutoring. If other ISA excursions are offered during the on-site period, you may add these on individually for an additional fee. Programs last 6 to 16 weeks and prices range from \$2450 to \$4350.

EXAMPLES OF PAST PLACEMENTS

Health

- Assist medical practitioners in a children's hospital
- Lead health education classes for a community-based organization
- Present topics such as sexual and reproductive rights, health, violence, gender and equality, and self-esteem

Education

- Provide tutoring and English instruction in orphanages
- Facilitate an environmental education program for a youth center
- Assist teachers with students of various ages in English instruction, art, or physical education

Conservation/Ecology

- Work on trail maintenance and help lead tours
- Assist with conservation projects in a protected natural area

Social Work

- Facilitate an after-school program for disadvantaged youth or for children whose parents have HIV/AIDS
- Present topics such as nutrition, money management, and domestic violence to women at a local food bank
- Assist with recreational activities for different age groups

Policy/Legislation

- Research and report to political think-tank staff on free trade, environment, immigration policy, and US-Costa Rica relations
- Assist and follow (research, edit, and translate) bills through the congressional process with a team of interns under a particular congressman's tutelage.

Museum

- Educate and guide children through interactive exhibits on topics such as history and culture, television and film, weather, dental hygiene, nutrition, and farming practices

ELIGIBILITY

- Two years attendance at a college or university
- 2.50 GPA (contact ISA if you do not meet this requirement)

Spanish Language Requirement

- 6-8 week program: 4 semesters or 6 quarters
- 10-16 week program: 3 semesters or 5 quarters

HOW TO APPLY

You will need to submit the following at least two months before your program start date:

- Standard ISA application with \$200 deposit*
- Transcript
- ELAP profile form (available at www.elapisa.com)
- ELAP Volunteer Expectations Form (available at www.elapisa.com)
- Résumé in Spanish

**If a placement is not found that fits your qualifications, the deposit is fully refundable.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.elapisa.com • elap@studiesabroad.com



PUBLIC HEALTH PLACEMENT IN GUANAJUATO



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PROJECT IN SAN JOSÉ



EDUCATION PLACEMENT IN LIMA

"I advise people to go for it. You learn so much about your 'job' but also the culture, the people and yourself."

-Stephanie Perreault, Northeastern University