



Care Work Internship

South Africa, Port Elizabeth

Program Description

This programme is for interns who have a passion for working with young children and helping to develop them academically, socially and emotionally. It is ideal for those wishing to go into the care work or pre-school profession who wish to gain practical experience. Interns will have the opportunity to work in a pre-school child care centre on a daily basis, with children from disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds. The system in South Africa does not provide free pre-school for disadvantaged families who cannot afford to pay child care fees, as a result a number of pre schools and child care centres have to survive in the disadvantaged communities with minimal funding. This means that these facilities have a lack of teachers per child and a lack of quality facilities and are in desperate need of interns to assist with their daily running. Interns in this programme will work with children between the age of 2 and 6 years old, focussing on providing stimulating activities and educational programmes for the children as well as general support to the care centre staff in feeding and general care for the children. The hours of the placement are approximately 5 hours per day (usually 07h30 to 12h30). This programme is ideal for people who are able to be flexible, self motivated and use their own initiative for creative ways to work with the children.

Aims & Objectives

The aim of this programme is to support under resourced pre-school, child care centres and communities by providing extra assistance for under-privileged and vulnerable children. Child Care workers will work with the same groups of children on a daily basis for the duration of their stay with the aim of supporting them emotionally, socially and academically to give the children a firm platform to progress onto Primary School Education after leaving the programme.

Schedule

Interns will be involved for a full week of Child Care from Monday to Friday, working each day from 07h30 to 12h30 (5 hours). Evenings and weekends are free time but are filled with lots of options of various social activities and excursions with other interns.

A TYPICAL WEEKDAY...

06h30: Wake up time

06h45 – 07h15: Breakfast

07h15: Departure for the various placements

07h30 – 12h30: Care Work Placement

12h30-13h00: Packed Lunch

13h00 – Return to accommodation

13h30 - 17h30 - Free time to plan lessons and activities

18h00 - Supper

Evenings: occasional activities but usually free - can be spent either at the accommodation or out and about. Only condition: be in fit state for care work the following morning!

Weekends are very full with opportunities for excursions and social activities – see activities and events below

Program participant criteria

Participants must be a minimum of 17 years old, there is no maximum age but any prospective interns should be informed that the majority of other participants will be between 18 and 25 years old. No teaching qualifications are required but a passion and enthusiasm for working with young children is important, as well as an ability to be proactive and use initiative without. It is also important to be flexible and creative as the schools are not always well organised or well run so supervision and guidance can be minimal.

Additional equipment

Interns should bring appropriate clothing for a semi professional environment (semi formal). Basic teaching materials will be provided, but on the whole care centres are not well resourced so interns / interns are welcome (not compulsory) to bring extra materials such as pencils, exercise books, blackboard chalk, arts and crafts materials, stimulating toys or games etc.

Activities & Events

All interns staying with us are welcome to join a number of activities some are free and some at an extra cost. Below is the typical schedule of activities over a full 12 week stay.

Every Wednesday - 5-a-side football

Week 1 – Arrival weekend

Week 2 – Jeffreys Bay – home of surfing South Africa - transport Free, optional overnight stay Free, optional dune boarding +- R180, optional surf lessons +- R400)

Week 3 – Great White Shark Cage Diving – Cost R2,700

Week 4 – Bloukrans Bungee Jump – transport free – Bungee R990

Week 5 – Departure / Arrival Weekend

Week 6 – Adrenaline Addo – Zip wires, Bungee Swing, Canoeing – R700

Week 7 – Game Reserve – Big Five Reserve – R3,000

Week 8 - Kragga Kamma - Game reserve close to Port Elizabeth - Free

Week 9 – Skydiving – R2,600 (R450 extra for video)

Week 10– Sundays River – boat trip and BBQ (braai) on the river - Free

Week 11– Bushcamp – Outdoor meal, under the stars, plus traditional African dance group - Free

Week 12 – Departure weekend

Note dates of activities are not guaranteed and will change depending on factors, such as weather, number of interns wishing to take part and other potential events taking place. Participants will only be able to partake in all activities if they come for a full 12 week duration.