

# Volunteer ESL Teacher for Transition Period

**Location:** 6a. Avenida 11-95 Zona 7 Colonia Landivar, Ciudad de Guatemala.

## **Start Date:**

This position is specifically designed for the transition period as students spend a month in the high school program at the end of their middle school period, for one month in November. If you'd like to volunteer for longer, feel free to start earlier in the year and continue through to the end of November.

## **Direct Manager:**

This role will sit under the English department lead, Sarah de Lemus and the director of Oportunidades, Mario Chamorro with the support of the volunteer office.

## **Volunteer Purpose:**

This role has been created for an ESL volunteer who would like to join us to design and teach a transition program allowing the students to get used to their new environment. This program does not follow a curriculum, it is designed to incorporate more relaxed, fun activities to help them with the transition, ready to start school in January. You will be part of the Oportunidades team which is an out of school program supporting students further their education through homework support and reinforcement classes in English and computing.

## **Volunteer Duties and Responsibilities:**

The following are an idea of the principal responsibilities of the role however, other things may be added as the role develops:

1. Teach the new middle school students (maximum 40) who are preparing to join the Oportunidades program the following January (the students will be broken into groups);
2. Keep a record of student attendance and progress throughout the volunteer period sharing records with the directors.
3. Support the Oportunidades team with activities and events outside of the ESL classroom and get involved with the school's culture and environment.
4. Report weekly to the English department lead to review lesson planning and activities including in the program for the following week.
5. Create activities to facilitate the program and prepare the environment for the following school year.

## **Our promise to you:**

We pledge to provide the following elements to the program to ensure its success:

1. A safe, secure, supportive working environment allowing you to feel accountable for your work whilst supported by the team;

# Volunteer ESL Teacher for Transition Period

2. Access to our onsite health clinic for any health issues; all contact with the clinic remains confidential;
3. Support from the department head to allow you to complete your task;
4. 24/7 support from our volunteer office onsite and when in your homestay;
5. Support from the director of volunteering onsite;
6. An opportunity to test your skills and knowledge and gain experience and knowledge in a professional work environment;
7. An opportunity to work as part of a team in a school environment with responsibilities and accountability for your work;
8. An opportunity to be a role model for the children;
9. An opportunity to make a lasting difference to the community;
10. A network for Safe Passage alumni connected through LinkedIn;
11. A work reference to take home with you written and signed by the director of volunteering;
12. An opportunity to be awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award (US citizens only) for your hard work and dedication - awarded on completion of contract period.

## Required Qualifications:

1. Studying for or attained a qualification:
  - a. related to teaching high school.
  - b. related to teaching ESL for example TEFL or CELTA.OR
  - c. Experience leading a high school classroom with a structured curriculum.
2. Working knowledge of a high school ESL curriculum and comfortable following a structured classroom environment.
3. Native level English and intermediate level Spanish.
4. Willing to commit to a three-month volunteer period working Monday to Saturday.

## Extra Beneficial Skills:

1. Experience working in Latin America.
2. A flexible, open-minded attitude to teaching.

## Working Conditions:

You will work on the site with our future high school students preparing them for their transition to high school. You will work as part of the Oportunidades team that works primarily in Spanish but must teach entirely in English. Keep in mind that you are working independently and you must be prepared for this. The space is large and has a dedicated English classroom and library area for use with students.

These students often miss classes because they have other commitments at home and will also have to earn a living. This can make teaching these grades slow and frustrating as classes are missed, repeated, and missed. This is a side effect of working with this group of students and in this environment and you have to be prepared for this, you cannot take your frustration out on the students.

# Volunteer ESL Teacher for Transition Period

You will be working in Zone 3 of Guatemala City, this is an insecure zone of the city and you will be required to follow strict safety rules that will be explained to you when you start work; these rules are mandatory. This may include rules related to Covid-19 including mask use and social distancing, we follow education ministry regulations and these rules **must** be adhered to.

Due to the nature of our work, the community is incredibly poor. Working in this environment can take a toll on your mental health, please ensure that you are prepared for this and are willing to talk to Safe Passage about it if you need to. The school and Safe Passage offices have a very high level of cleanliness however, it is based next to a landfill site so the community can be dirty and the air quality is lower than you might be used to.

Guatemala is a truly fascinating country full of history, culture, traditions and places to explore. However, one of the most frustrating things is that safe places to live often come with a long commute to work because they are popular. For that reason, please understand and prepare yourself for traffic problems as we safely bring you to work and back to your host family. On a good day, it will be a two hour round trip, on a bad day it could be three or four hours so please bring things to keep yourself entertained and try on to let it get to you.

You can find more information about being a volunteer in our [volunteer handbook](#) as well as on social media. We encourage you to look out for our live videos, we recently did a Facebook live from the *Oportunidades* department which you can watch [here](#).

## How to apply:

If this volunteering position interests you, please read our [volunteer handbook](#) before sending your resume and a letter of introduction to [volunteers@safepassage.org](mailto:volunteers@safepassage.org).

## Cost of Volunteering:

We ask that each volunteer contributes to their volunteering experience although we share the cost with you. These costs are explored in more detail on our [website](#) and can be covered through funding or through fundraising if you can't afford to pay them straight out.