

Teaching Management Plan

China



OVERVIEW

Company Mission

Our mission is to encourage young people to volunteer for worthwhile work in developing countries. We expect that doing this kind of voluntary work will in time become the norm. As more and more people join us, we aim to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve, to learn, to understand, to teach, to inspire, and to be inspired.

Teaching Programme Mission

Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multi-national community.

Background Information

China has the largest population of any country in the world, accounting for 19.24% of the global total, and in line with this offers the largest education system in the world. The current 2014 estimate is 1,393,783,836 peopleⁱ. About 17.2% are children between the ages of 0-14 years oldⁱⁱ. Education for these children is one of the most important factors for the sustainable development of China in the future. Projects Abroad China recognises the significance in contributing to the educational system through collaboration with local partners.

Research has shown that even Chinese parents and educators find the education system in China to be corrupt and pressurisedⁱⁱⁱ. Projects Abroad China strives to emphasise on the importance of learning through creativity and make the learning experience more fun and inspiring. The traditional teaching style of the Chinese educational system involves a lot of rote memorising and repeating contents of textbooks, which can often be tedious for the children. With the help of teaching volunteers, Projects Abroad China aims to introduce new methods of teaching and learning by incorporating creativity, fun and interaction. Furthermore, as English is becoming the most important international language used by people from different countries to communicate with each other, Projects Abroad China also seek to focus on the importance of increasing exposure and improving English language learning to the children from an early age.

Partners

Projects Abroad China collaborates with several schools and learning centres in Shanghai and Chengdu. There are two placements in Shanghai: Zi Luo Lan School and Dynamic Kids Learning Centre. In Chengdu, there are four placements: Jitou Experimental School, Jitou Primary School, New-zone Youth Training Centre and Wuhou Science Park Elementary School.

GOALS

In order to work towards our Teaching programme mission, we have set the following goals to achieve in the placements where we send our volunteers:

1. Improve English

English is now a universal language used in international business, online communication and media. It is now more important than ever for young people to learn English so they can properly engage in a global community. We aim to develop three main skills areas: reading, speaking and writing. Actions to put in place to achieve this goal include: Create new teaching aids on a monthly basis, introduce weekly pronunciation exercises and spelling tests, use creative techniques to improve listening and speaking through playing conversational games.

2. Improve classroom support

Volunteers play an important role in the creation of new materials, visual learning aids. They also work alongside teachers to help students improve their pronunciation and command of a foreign language, as most local teachers have not had that opportunity to learn the language from a native speaker. Volunteers also assist with classroom discipline, providing personalised help to slower learners through one-to-one lessons, and designing new presentations and exercises. Actions to achieve this goal include: Hold weekly meetings with teaching staff for lesson planning, help local teachers to improve pronunciation, incorporate volunteers' skills into other lessons, e.g. music lessons.

3. Encourage learning through creativity

Problem-solving and creative thinking have become essential skills for entrepreneurs to master in order to run successful, innovative businesses. Building up these skills during a child's education will increase their likelihood of becoming academically successful and economically productive. We educate and run creative activities that will motivate students in their learning as well as encourage them to think for themselves and become more innovative. Original teaching methods and activities help increase students' concentration as well as their participation in class.

The best way to learn a new language is making it fun. Creativity is an important tool and a suitable learning environment should be created. This space should provide students with opportunities for interaction in which the acquisition of a new language is seen as a meaningful process and not as a pointless final product. When such an environment is created, students are given the chance to experiment, explore, create and recreate with real imagination and creativity. Actions to put in place to achieve this goal include: Include research on new teaching aids and methods, make learning environments visually appealing and fun, encourage students applying their knowledge to do presentations in English.

RESOURCES

Human Resources	Average 18 volunteers per year Projects Abroad global staff teams Placement staff support
Physical Resources	Projects Abroad offices Placement materials
Online Resources	Volunteer Resources Database Myprojectsabroad webpages

Financial Resources	Monthly budgets for overall operations Donations to specific projects or placements
Intangible Resources	Reputation in destination communities Goodwill; genuine desire to help Expertise

Projects Abroad provides a range of resources for each of our programmes. These fall into four interdependent categories:

Human: Volunteers themselves are our most crucial asset in achieving our goals. Through their creativity and energy, all of our ambitions can be realised. Another central support team is our extensive network of Projects Abroad staff worldwide, dedicated to supporting volunteers and achieving our company mission. We also depend greatly on the staff in all of our placements; whose support guides volunteers through their daily activities.

Physical: Projects Abroad has offices in all of our destinations, where volunteers can come to speak to staff or attend workshops. There are also office materials and placement supplies available to volunteers.

Online: The Volunteers Resources Database and myprojectsabroad webpages all provide vital support before, during and after their placements.

Financial: Funds for all of Projects Abroad's work come solely from volunteer placement fees. These are distributed via monthly budgets, to ensure fair allocation of funds for each destination. Occasionally volunteers may also send donations directly for a specific placement or project.

Intangible: The good reputation of volunteers in local communities is what makes our work possible. This reputation has been earned over years of dedicated volunteer contribution. This is supported by the combined knowledge of our extensive staff network. With over 700 staff across every continent, we are proud to be a diverse and accomplished team.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement visits Volunteer workshop sessions Staff meetings Volunteer Resources Database Feedback evaluation
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Physical monitoring: Through placement visits and volunteer workshops, volunteers are in frequent contact with staff members, who will observe and advise volunteers in action. Staff participate in regular meetings to discuss best practices within and between destinations.

Online monitoring: The Volunteer Resource Database is platform for staff and volunteers to share and develop ideas.

Feedback evaluation: Feedback from placement staff, Projects Abroad staff and volunteers is continuously gathered and used to inform future plans.

LOCATION OF PLACEMENTS



ⁱ <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/china-population/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/profiles/China/People/Age-structure>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/22/china-education-exams-parents-rebel>

Projects Abroad Teaching programme - China			
	INDICATORS	MONITORING (MEANS OF VERIFICATION)	ASSUMPTIONS
Company Mission: (the change we want to see in greater society)			
Our company mission is to make it the norm for men and women from developed countries to live and work abroad, improving the lives of people in a multi-national community.			
Teaching Programme Mission: (the change we want to see for the target group)			
Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multi-national community.		1. Onsite visits 2. Placement staff feedback 3. Projects Abroad staff feedback 4. Volunteer feedback (DQs & EOPF) 5. Children feedback 6. Test results	1. Number of volunteers does not drop considerably 2. Number of volunteers with a good grasp of English does not drop considerably 3. Political and civil stability in the countries we work 4. No natural disasters that could affect our work
Goal 1: (what we want to achieve)			
Improve English			
Actions: (the tasks that need to take place to achieve the goal)			
1.1	Once a month create teaching aides that resemble the month. E.g., October is the start of autumn so the children will draw and write leaves.		
1.2	Ensure the volunteers allow a regulated time-period per week to implement spelling tests/pronunciation exercises/reading practice in the classroom. Reports should be filled out after these lessons.		
1.3	Use creative techniques and games to help improve the listening and speaking skills of students. Role plays should be used to improve the conversational skills of the student's english (something that is seriously lacking in China).		
Goal 2:			
Improve classroom support			
Actions:			
2.1	Hold weekly meetings with teaching staff to discuss roles and activities for the coming week. A Projects Abroad staff member can assist during the first week if necessary.		
2.2	Help guide teachers with correct pronunciation and grammar (English). This should be done during the after school club with the teachers (1.5).		
2.3	Utilize the volunteer's skills in the classroom (e.g a music teacher can teach music lessons). If possible then we can base a workshop around these skills.		
Goal 3:			
Encourage learning through creativity			
Actions:			
3.1	For a minimum of 1 hour per week research and document new teaching aids. This research will be documented in the Projects Abroad volunteer diary. A report will be made by a Projects Abroad staff member to ensure that the volunteers will do this.		
3.2	Volunteers to work with the placements to make learning environments visually appealing and educational to the students e.g. "word of the day wall" -whereby the volunteer displays a new word each day along with a definition and the students are tested on it the following morning. Chinese words should be written next to this to clarify the word for the students.		
3.3	Volunteers to do a presentation to their class about their home country, and divide class into groups to prepare a presentation on a topic of their choice. The children can write simple words about China.		