

Glencraig Life Sharing Project

Camphill
Community
Glencraig

Northern Ireland
United Kingdom



The Camphill Community Glencraig European Solidarity Corps Project for individual volunteers supporting adults with a learning disability

There will be 31 Long Term Volunteers taking part in this project (4 volunteers for 12 months, 3 for 10 months, 16 volunteers for 9 months and 8 volunteers for 6 months)

All volunteers have to be registered with the European Solidarity Corps further information can be found at the following website: <https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity>

The volunteers must be from the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain.

There is also the opportunity for volunteers with fewer opportunities and special needs to have short term volunteering experiences of 2 or 4 weeks. These volunteers must be from the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia and Greece.

At present 14 volunteers have already arrived and we are expecting another 8 volunteers when the travel restrictions due to the coronavirus have been lifted. Therefore we are still looking for 9 volunteers (2 for 10 months, 6 volunteers for 9 months and 1 volunteer for 6 months).

If you are interested in this project, please contact Vincent Reynolds at the Camphill Community Glencraig: vincent@glenraig.org.uk

The Long Term Volunteers can come from June/July 2020 (depending on the travel restrictions due to the coronavirus) until the following dates:

- Volunteers for 10 months must arrive before 01.08.2020
- Volunteers for 9 months must arrive before 01.09.2020
- Volunteers for 6 months must arrive before 01.12.2020

Brexit

At the present time, the UK government does not intend to continue with ESC projects after the 1st January 2021. However if you arrive by the end of December 2020 it will be possible for you to stay during 2021 until your volunteering project is completed. In order to stay you will need to apply for temporary immigration status - European Temporary Leave to Remain (Euro TLR). To apply for this scheme it will be simple, free and will be made after your arrival in the UK.

For further information, please see the following website:

<https://www.eusolidaritycorps.org.uk/transition-period>

Camphill Community Glenraig:

Glenraig situated in Northern Ireland between Belfast and Bangor, it is on a beautiful estate of 100 acres (45 hectares) with woods, fields and parklands sloping down to the shore of Belfast Lough. It is part of the International Camphill Movement started in 1939 by Dr Karl Konig and influenced by recommendations from Rudolf Steiner. Glenraig established in 1954 to provide a unique approach to supporting children, young people and adults with learning disabilities. The Glenraig Community also promotes social, cultural, artistic and sustainable environmental practices.

Project description

Volunteering has always been a fundamental aspect of what is provided at Glenraig. Each year 20 - 40 international volunteers would come and stay for at least a year at Glenraig. Most of these volunteers came from mainland Europe but some came from other Continents, Ireland and other parts of the UK. In recent years there has been a decline in the number of volunteers coming to Glenraig because of this we set up a pilot project for three Erasmus+ volunteers who arrived in November 2018 and will stay for 1 year.

In order to expand on the pilot project, the Glenraig Life Sharing Project (GLSP) has been set up this will be an inclusive project where volunteers will live and work together with people who have a learning disability. The project will also be open to people with special needs and fewer opportunities.

Five days a week the volunteer will support people with a learning disability in one of the houses at Glenraig.

The volunteer will also be able to support people with a learning disability in the following inclusive settings: Farm, Garden, Estate, Laundry and Craft workshop.

The volunteer will be involved in volunteering activities for approximately 37.5 hours per week, either in the morning from 7am to 2.30pm or the afternoon/evening from 2pm to 9.30pm.

The volunteer will have two consecutive days off per week and 2.5 days holiday per month spread over the duration of the placement.

The volunteer will be able to access excellent public transport links to the nearby towns of Bangor, Holywood and Belfast. There are ESC volunteers in Belfast and Bangor, Glenraig will encourage volunteers participating in our project to link in with them during their stay. During the longer holiday periods volunteers can use the time to explore the lovely locations on the island of Ireland. Personal protective equipment will be provided but volunteers should bring adequate clothing for all weather conditions.

There will also be the opportunity for the volunteer to participate in the following social and cultural activities:

- Social and cultural activities organised in GlenCraig and in the local area
- Participate in cultural projects such as plays, musical performances and activities
- Outdoor adventure, physical exercise and sporting activities
- Take part in activities that raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity, nature protection and the problems associated with climate change

Volunteer profile

The volunteer must be between 18 – 30 years of age at the start of the placement and have an interest in the following:

- Promote and develop inclusion for people with special needs and fewer opportunities
- Willing to engage with people who have a learning disability
- Enthusiastic to work in an environment with people from a diverse range of backgrounds and a wide range of abilities
- Undertake physical work that may be outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- Willing to engage in social and cultural activities outside of his/her primary volunteering activities
- It helps if the volunteer has a basic foundation in the English language and is willing to develop his/her skills in this language

The volunteer should have an interest in the following ESC topics:

- Health and wellbeing
- Environment and natural protection
- Creativity and Culture

The volunteer will have the possibility to develop his/her knowledge and experience in the following ESC areas:

- Working with disabled people
- Working with children / young people
- Healthcare
- Environment and natural protection
- Arts / music

The volunteer should be interested in developing the following qualities in themselves and others:

- Friendly, approachable and develop positive social relationships with others.
- Patient, supportive, respectful and be able to care for yourself and others.
- Inter cultural learning, the ability to communicate in different languages and by using other communication techniques e.g. Makaton.
- Creativity, with ability to think on your feet and adapt to the environment to provide enriching positive experiences for yourself and others.
- Skills and competence that will support your continual professional and personal development.
- Responsible, positive, enthusiastic attitude, increased understanding and awareness of yourself and others.

How to apply

No academic qualifications are needed and if a participant has a concern about any of the above, Glenraig is willing to answer questions, give advice and provide additional support to reasonable requests.

You can apply to become a volunteer in this project if you are from one of the countries listed above. Glenraig can provide the contact details for our partner organisation from your country, who will support you in your application and preparation for the project. They may also be able to provide additional support if you have any difficulties during the project which Glenraig is unable to provide.

You will also have to register on the European Solidarity Corps as a participant and send your Reference Number to Vincent Reynolds the Contact Person for the project (see contact details below) you will also have to send Vincent the following information:

- ❖ Application Form
- ❖ Full CV
- ❖ Motivation letter which is specific to the project

Accommodation and other arrangements

The volunteer will live in one of the houses on the Glenraig site this might be in a house where people with a learning disability live or it could be in a house with other volunteers. Each volunteer will have their own bedroom, but he/she will have to share bathroom, living room and kitchen with others. The volunteers will have the possibility of eating together and preparing their own meals. Glenraig provides basic household stuff (bed linen, towels, shampoo, soap, etc.) and food. The volunteer will receive an allowance of approximately €184 per month paid directly to the volunteer to cover the purchasing of personal necessities.

There is funding available for travel to and from Glenraig at the beginning and the end of the project. This funding volunteers will only receive after successfully completing the project. If this arrangement makes it difficult for any successful volunteer to participate in the project, please contact the Project Coordinator.

Robust risk assessments will be undertaken in conjunction with the volunteer and the necessary mitigating steps will be taken to ensure the safety of the volunteers during their placement and in their tasks and activities. Glenraig has a 24 hour emergency community contact number that volunteers will receive upon arrival.

Glenraig will support the volunteer registering with the local GP (Medical) practice, the volunteer should bring a valid EH111 card with them.

Training and support for the volunteer during the project

The volunteer will receive pre-departure training from the supporting organisation, which will include information about the Project, rights and responsibilities, intercultural learning and experiences and goal setting.

Glenraig will register the volunteer on the Online Linguistic Support (OLS) and the volunteer will complete the OLS assessment before departing for Glenraig.

At the beginning of the project the volunteer will identify his/her learning goals and during the project he/she will complete regular evaluations at least once a month that will encourage active reflection on his/her progress towards the agreed learning objectives.

The volunteer will receive a full induction training within the first month of arrival at Glencaig that will include training in relevant policies and procedures including health and safety and supporting people with learning disabilities.

The volunteer will receive on-arrival training soon after his/her arrival. The on-arrival training is organised by another organisation, provides valuable information about Northern Ireland, the ESC framework and is an opportunity to meet other ESC volunteers based in Northern Ireland.

The volunteer will also take part in the foundation course with other volunteers living and working at Glencaig. This will cover areas such as the Camphill approach, creativity, inclusion, sustainability and bio-diversity.

As part of the Foundation Course the volunteer will complete the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Social Pedagogy across Europe. This course is very suitable for volunteers at Glencaig because it provides knowledge about the approach practised at Glencaig that is linked into a European framework.

During the course of the year there will be the opportunity to attend conferences, talks, lectures, meetings, social and cultural events.

Glencaig will register the volunteer on to Youthpass and will support him/her to use the tool enabling them to reflect on their learning throughout the placement. It will produce a certificate at the end of the project that will provide evidence of his/her achievements.

There will be many opportunities for learning during the volunteers' placement at Glencaig. This will include informal learning where the volunteer learns through involvement in daily tasks and interaction with others and is a core part of the Social Pedagogy approach.

The volunteer will be assigned a team leader who will provide informal and formal supervision. This will enable the volunteer to continually evaluate his/her performance and identify at early stages any barriers to learning.

The volunteer will also have a mentor who will provide additional support and help him/her plan individual learning goals.

For further information about Glencaig:

Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/weareglencaig/>

In addition, our website: www.glencaig.org.uk

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