

## ***INTERNSHIP - EDUCATION & TEACHING ASSISTANT***

Apply for one of our internships and do something amazing and life-changing with your life! As one of our interns and a member of a professional, dynamic team you will take responsibility for, and also have the freedom to contribute your own skills and passions to make a real difference to our children and the success of our project! You are certain to learn a lot and grow personally in ways you never imagined. In Ecuador you will learn the real meaning of „Ama La Vida“ and surely have the year of your life!“

### ***About SALEM Ecuador***

SALEM Ecuador is a children's, youth and community centre located in the small town of Mindo, in the cloud forest on the western side of the Ecuadorian Andes.

Our center is a place where children can enjoy their childhood, learn, play, and be accepted as part of a loving community.

We care for the most underprivileged and at risk children and young people of the village. We offer them loving care and help to find solutions to their most urgent problems.

***We are passionate about providing excellent child care, education and social services!***

We provide day care for 45+ children between 5 to 18 years of age. We have a holistic approach to education using elements of the Montessori methodology. In our centre children can discover and develop their skills and creativity as well as manifest their own ideas. We help children with their basic education and also offer many other learning experiences such as courses in handicrafts, sewing, nature & conservation and the arts and music. We also work proactively with families and the wider community to find solutions to the problems which affect our children. Since its inception SALEM Ecuador has been working on breaking the vicious circle of poverty, low standards of living, lack of education and lack of economic opportunities by giving children and young adults the opportunity to receive education and care within a progressive, loving environment.

SALEM Ecuador is part of SALEM International a non profit organisation based in Germany, established over 60 years ago. All of the SALEM projects worldwide are affiliated through the shared values of peace and helping those in need. We have a positive attitude to life and believe in inclusion and equal rights. We value all people regardless of their beliefs, nationality or social background.

A peaceful way of life and respect for life is our first priority. We believe this means being mindful and respectful not only towards other humans, animals, plants and the environment but also towards ones self. Our humanistic and holistic view of life includes the belief in non violence and tolerance. We are vegetarian and abstain from the use of alcohol and cigarettes inside our facilities.

All of our employees and team members strive to embody this philosophy and put these ethics and values into practice in everyday life. Leading by example we hope to communicate our philosophy to our children in an honest and authentic way.

Further information concerning SALEM Ecuador is available on our websites:

[www.saleminternational.org](http://www.saleminternational.org) & [www.salem-ecuador.org](http://www.salem-ecuador.org)

## ***Job Description***

### ***Tasks & Responsibilities***

The main task of the intern is childcare.

- Depending on the age and previous experience, volunteers may also be involved in the care of teenagers and adolescents.
- Tasks include:
  - Preparing & cleaning classrooms.
  - Creating new Montessori education materials.
  - Assisting children to understand and complete Montessori tasks
  - Plan, prepare and manage special projects and activities for tutorials e.g. handicrafts, sewing, gardening, sport, music, arts.
  - Assisting in the Kitchen and managing kitchen projects with the children.
  - Accompanying and participating in special field trips and external activities.
  - Participating and assisting with Music lessons.
  - Participating in daily planning and review meetings.
  - Participating in weekly/monthly team training and coaching sessions.

### ***Skills, Experience & Qualifications***

- Be in alignment with our Vision, Mission and Values.
- Be passionate about education and working with children.
- Be passionate about something that you can share with and teach our community:
  - music, dance, yoga, art, handicrafts. carpentry, sewing, cooking, sports, games, theatre, puppetry etc.
- Personal maturity, independence and social skills are a pre requisite and should be apparent from the application.
- Ability to work within a structured, disciplined daily routine and to uphold existing rules and codes of conduct.
- A desire to provide our children with the discipline, authority & patience they need to learn, create and develop into healthy adults.
- Patience, understanding, compassion.
- Professional experience and/or previous experience in education and social services is not essential but very helpful.

### ***Requirements***

- A High School Diploma / GCSE A Levels or equivalents.
- The minimum age for volunteers is 18 years.
- Working Language: Spanish language minimum level B1.
- Working hours: 8 hours per day Monday – Friday approx 40 hours per week. Evenings and weekends are free however some overtime and extra work may be required to support special activities and excursions in the evenings and weekends.
- Interns will live and work in Mindo Ecuador.

## ***Accommodation***

Interns live and work on site on the project. Interns are provided with a private single room with a shared bathroom and toilet. Clean filtered drinking water is available at all times. On school days a three course cooked lunch is served. The kitchen is available for Interns to prepare their own breakfast/dinner and all other meals on non school days. All Food is provided in the project.

## ***Costs***

All costs of the internship must be financed by the intern. We do not provide any contributions towards flights, health insurance, personal spending money or any other personal costs which may be incurred as part of the internship.

The cost of board and lodging is \$75 per month to be paid monthly in Ecuador.

No further costs are to be charged to the Intern.

## ***Length of Stay***

The internship is for a minimum of 6 months. A full term stay for of 12 months or an academic year is preferred.

## ***Trip Preparation***

Travel guides and the internet offer excellent information about Ecuador and its people. We are happy to provide further information or answer any of your questions via mail. To help you get the most from your internship we endeavour to organise a preparation meeting with project managers or former interns either at the SALEM headquarters in Germany, at your location or via Skype.

## ***Flights & Airport Pickup***

Quito (UIO) is the destination airport. A variety of Airlines fly to Quito. There are direct flights from some cities in the US, however only a few direct flights from Europe. A typical price for a return flight to Europe is between 900 and 1,200 €.

Whenever possible we will pick you up at the airport.

If you are visiting a language school in Quito at the beginning of your stay, then the language school will arrange to have you picked up at the airport.

If required we can organise an overnight hostel for you in Quito or organise a taxi to Mindo at your own cost and provide you with all the information you need to get to Mindo by yourself. The trip is uncomplicated and safe.

## ***Personal Risk & Insurance.***

All volunteers/interns travel at their own risk. We recommend each intern to arrange private health, travel, accident and indemnity insurance for the full duration to, from and during the internship.

## ***Health Risks & Inoculations***

To the best of our knowledge there is no Malaria in Mindo and Quito. Rabies, Hepatitis, and Yellow Fever are however prevalent in Ecuador. Health Departments are able to give further information regarding vaccinations. Additional vaccinations as recommended by your personal physician are at the discretion of the volunteer.

## ***Ecuadorian Visa***

For a 3+ month internship you will need to apply for a Volunteer Visa at the Ecuadorian embassy or Consulate in your home country. Typically the cost is 250\$. We will be happy to assist you with the formalities of your visa application.

## ***What to expect***

- A fun and rewarding experience working with our children and teenagers.
- Make a contribution & provide a valuable service which makes a real difference.
- A real job with responsibilities where you will gain a lot of real life experience in education and social services.
- Some challenging situations which help you to learn and grow personally.
- To be a valued member of a motivated, enthusiastic & professional team.
- Good support, supervision and mentorship.
- To work for a respected, professional, well run & structured organisation.
- Experience a rich cultural exchange within a small but vibrant and diverse community of Mindo.
- Free time and great travel/cultural opportunities in Ecuador
- Make some great life long friendship!

## ***What not to expect***

- A relaxing vacation in a luxurious resort.

## ***Applications***

If you are passionate about education, feel you are aligned with our vision, mission & values, and have something valuable to contribute to our project in Ecuador then we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please send your application with a detailed cover letter, your CV and your preferred travel dates to [info@salem-ecuador.org](mailto:info@salem-ecuador.org)

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us via email.

Contact Details:

SALEM International Calle Lluvia de Oro s/n y 9mde Octubre Mindo - Pichincha Ecuador Tel.: +593 (0) 994-2686-81

e-mail: [info@salem-ecuador.org](mailto:info@salem-ecuador.org)

[www.salem-ecuador.org](http://www.salem-ecuador.org)