

INFO SHEET: EXPERIENCE AUSTRIA

Project: Europahaus des Kindes

■ WHAT IS IT?

At the Europahaus des Kindes, a part of 'Kinderfreunde Wien', we offer a creche for children over 1 year old, 3 bilingual groups (English – German), a family group for children between the ages 2 and 6, and 2 after-school groups (Hortgruppen) for children who attend the local primary schools.

Our children are collected daily from 2 primary schools and brought here by bus. On arrival, the children first enjoy their lunch and afterwards they do their homework with help from the teachers and the volunteer.

After the children have finished their homework, there is enough time left over to play with friends or choose from an array of activities which are offered from their teacher. We offer a variety of different activities to the children, depending on both their age and their likes, in order to aid their development through play. The animal farm at the back of our big backyard is particularly popular with the Hort children as they are able to experience first hand what farm animals are like while both, children and animals, spend a lot of time in the garden. Despite our beautiful surroundings, the children are taken on many trips into the city centre. These include visiting museums, ice-skating, swimming, going for walks, ...

■ WHERE IS IT?

The Project is located in Vienna, capital of Austria. Vienna has 1,6 million inhabitants. Located in the centre of the new Europe and heavily influenced by it's history as the capital of the Austrian Hungarian Empire, it builds a bridge between east and west. Many historical buildings offer loads of sight seeing opportunities, but fortunately Vienna is also influenced by modern times: it has a lively night life, many opportunities to practice sport and a large cultural programme.

The project is on the edge of the Vienna woods with large playing fields attached to the house, which offers many play opportunities and we therefore aim to spend as much time as possible outside with the children.

■ WHAT IS GRENZENLOS DOING?

Grenzenlos is a Vienna-based NGO different from the project. We are supporting the project and the intern/volunteer before and during her/his stay, and we are organizing the logistics.

Grenzenlos identifies and prepares hosting projects, organises the accommodation, offers a basic introduction and orientation for the participant after arrival, helps with finding language courses if needed, offers a mentoring program, helps with all administrative matters and conducts the evaluation meeting at the end of stay.

■ JOB DESCRIPTION

The main idea is to have a young person from another country present and to let children get to know this country, culture and language by his/her daily presence. The project of the volunteer will consist of introducing different aspects of his /her culture into the leisure time programme of the children.

It would be especially great to receive a person interested in physical activities as our grounds offer excellent opportunities for playground games, tennis, volleyball, football etc. As we consider this an important part of a healthy life for the children and it enables us to integrate volunteers with limited language knowledge: playing games and doing sports together knows no boundaries!

For the implementation and the planning of the leisure time activities in the regular schedule, the staff will be there to support. Therefore, the volunteer will not be alone with the whole group of children, but always shares responsibility with the rest of the team. This project would give the volunteer the opportunity to develop skills working with children, encourage team-work and provide a supportive atmosphere in which the volunteer is able to bring ideas from their own country and experiment with them.

We have two classes, with 17 or 25 child, all with the age from 6 to 10 years. We need the volunteer 2 days

a week from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and three days a week from 12.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Once a month there is a meeting with all the teachers from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

At 12.00 we pick up of the children from school (with a bus) and at 12.30 there will be a common lunch, where the volunteer can join the meal or will help us to pick the other kids from school at 1 p.m. (also with a bus), the children start doing their homework and take as long as they need. The kids who take the later bus will have lunch at 1.30 (where the volunteer can join the meal), and than they have to do their homework too. The volunteer can assist them with the subjects he/she understands. When the children are finished, the volunteer will spend the rest of the afternoon with them and will also some afternoon programme with them. Around 2.30 p.m. there will be a snack provided for the kids. At 4.30 p.m. some of the children will be picked up from their parents at Europahaus, others are going with the bus to another kindergarten from Kinderfreunde where they get picked up by their parents. The volunteer and the teachers have to take the bus too.

Normally on Fridays we do not make any homework so we have time to do some trips to the city or to the surroundings of the school or, if the weather does not allow this, continue with our projects.

As mentioned above, the main idea of the project is to challenge the children with the presence of a volunteer from a different country, who speaks a different language and knows different customs, habits etc. With this as a start off, the volunteer develops ideas for activities and can implement these in accordance with the schedule of the teachers. The projects of volunteers in the past years that proved to be interesting for the children and the volunteers are: Projects involving music and singing: music and songs from the other country, learning these songs together or making music together. (also dancing) all kinds off creative work: projects with clay, wood, paper, paint, according to the seasons or for special occasions projects with a special topic, like the country the volunteer comes from, 'Europe', theatre, etc.

We would like to include the volunteer in the gymnastics- and outdoor programme: outdoor games like football, basketball, tennis, and other outdoor activities in the surrounding forest will be a big part of the leisure time, when the weather allows it. Most activities and projects can be done with a few of the children, as well as with the whole group, depending on the resources and what the volunteer

feels comfortable with. We hope that the volunteer will transport his/her background and culture to the children and in this way will create an international atmosphere within the daily life of the children

■ FACTS & NUMBERS

Employees: 14 full-time / 12 part time

experience with international volunteers: we have been hosting many volunteers since 2000

support for volunteers: The volunteer would be included in meetings; he/she will have an mentor inside the project who would be available for feedback. Preferable once the week the volunteer will have a meeting with a person who is in charge for the volunteer once a month we all have a team meeting that the volunteer is welcome to join.

Volunteering duration: 10 month (September to june)

■ REQUESTED SKILLS

The main requirement for any volunteer/intern is her/his openness and respect towards the children. She/he should speak english fluently and should enjoy spending time and so different activities with the kids.

■ HOW TO APPLY?

Send your Volunteers Motivation letter together with your CV to grenzenlos: austria@grenzenlos.or.at
The selection will be made by the Hosting project itself.

■ CONTACT

Grenzenlos, Latschkagasse 1/4, A-1090 Wien, Austria

Barbara Eglitis

Ph: +43 (0)1 315 76 36, Fax: +43 (0)1 315 76 37

Email: austria@grenzenlos.or.at

For infos, see also: www.experience-austria.org