

International longterm voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle e.V.
profile place of assignment
within the program: weltwärts, EVS



Evangelische Integrative Kindertagesstätte Sankt Ulrich

<http://www.kita-sankt-ulrich.de/>



The Evangelische Integrative Kindertagesstätte (Kita) St. Ulrich (protestant Integrative nursery holy Ulrich) is a facility for child care located at the centre of Halle. It is run by the Zweckverband familienunterstützende Einrichtungen im evangelischen Kirchenkreis Halle-Saalkreis.

The Kita St. Ulrich offers place for 77 children. Among this are 7 integrative places for disabled children and 29 places for babies (9 weeks old or older). The center works on the basic christian faith and is supported by the protestant parish "Marktkirche". Pedagogical concept is based on religious education, montessori education (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montessori_education), intercultural and integrative education with disabled and non-disabled children together.

Field of engagement and activities of the volunteer within place of assignment

The voluntary service at this poa mainly is social and caring work with children!

The volunteer is assigned to a fixed (age) group. However, she_he will have contact with all children and parents, as in the concept of the center provision is made for points in the daily routine, in which all children participate together in activities.

Activities of the volunteer:

- accompany individual children in free play
- attending morning circles and parties
- participation in the meals and support of children
- assistance in household activities such as cooking with the involvement of children
- own program offers for children in the sporty, musical, artistic area, depending on the interests and skills of the volunteer
- participation in projects in the field of developmental education
- (the Kita has been offering such projects already and will be pleased, if the volunteer gets involved here to support the running projects, but also with his_her new ideas).

Please be aware:

- Since you work with kids, it might be quite loud
- The children do not speak english and only few staff members speak english!
- You will have a quite fixed duty-roster!

Volunteers profile – Specific for this place of assignment

- enthusiasm for working with children
- openness to religious themes and religious education
- openness to children with disabilities
- interest in sports, music, cultural or creative work and interest to bring in this knowledge in the work with children
- selfconfident
- need a certificate of good conduct without any entries

Volunteers profile – General

- 18 to 28 years (exceptions can be made, when reasonable)
- (high) school graduation or comparable personal suitability
- basic knowledge of English and German and willingness to learn German starting in home country
- motivation: voluntary service as an opportunity to learn in different fields and to get involved with (civil) society (voluntary service as learning and peace service)
- openness to the special structure of a voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle, that is: willingness to participate in the accompanying educational program, to develop and implement one or more small project(s) and to get occupied and engaged with topics and activities of (local) civil society,
- interest in global relationships and peace politics as well as education on these topics
- preferable already dedication in civil society in the home country, willingness to get involved in civil society in the home country after returning

Reports of former volunteers

Stefanija, 2016-17, final report

Kita St. Ulrich it is a great kindergarten where you can express your creativity by everyday work with the children. The most beneficial activity in my opinion in the kindergarten is an exercise called "Morning circle", where we all sit in a circle and sing songs, speak with the children or tell a story.

I would say that it is necessary to have German knowledge after applying at this place of assignment! But also if you are motivated to learn the language I would recommend working with the biggest children instead of working with the small children like me (Grasshopper), because they use incorrect words and you can't really improve your German language. Besides of that reason you can organize more activities during the day.

What amazed me the most was that before every meal we were singing songs with the Grasshoppers not only in German but in Macedonian as well. After 6 months of my voluntary service I felt part of the team, at the beginning it was really hard because of the language barrier. My colleagues were really kind and careful.

However in the end I would say that it is an unforgettable experience which gave me a lot of ideas and inspiration if I want to work with children in my future.

Stefanija, 2016-17, in-between report



Your voluntary service is going to be what you make out of it! When people ask me how it is to be a volunteer for one year, I always say that it depends on you. Basically it is a very difficult question. Why? Because every personal experience, has a different story. We are 11 volunteers and each of us has his own personal story, perception and experience. When I applied for this project I didn't know that: my flat is going to be my new home, the other volunteers are going to be my new family and the place of assignment is going to be my motivation. You will learn how to live independently, but also with other volunteers. And after

meeting these, at first new and unfamiliar people, I felt like I've known some of them my whole life. This year is a chance to explore one country, one culture, but the most yourself.

What I like the most about my voluntary service in the kindergarten, I would say, is Peter. He has Down syndrome. But for me the most beautiful feeling every morning is when I see him and he is always happy to see me. It's hard to describe in words, how sometimes this feeling and energy brings me up when I am down or when it is not my day. But I have learned a lot. I learned from him that there should always be a reason to be thankful and happy. He enjoys music and singing or dancing with all other children, and what amazed me is that he is perfectly accepted in the group. The most beneficial activity in my opinion in the kindergarten is an exercise called "Morning circle", where we all sit in a circle and sing songs, speak with the children or tell a story.

(...) I think the best thing here is that you can be whatever you want and nobody really cares. The year is not going to be all rainbows and sunshine, but take that year just for yourself, because you always have a lot to learn and it really is an amazing opportunity. Be prepared to go through many ups and downs. After four months of this project I have really learned a lot of life lessons. First one is look into you. How much do we really look into ourselves? We will always bring with us our knowledge and personality but also our culture. Being here I started to change some of my behaviors and I began to take on a more ecological mindset. It is really challenging to see your own personal accomplishment in only one year, but the good thing is that you can always leap through the things you didn't like about yourself and take on the new ones that you have discovered. This year will open your horizons, your perspective and the way you see the world. So if you are a young enthusiastic person who wants to learn, to grow and to travel then I encourage you to be brave and apply, otherwise you will never know how your own personal story will be.

Shweta, 2014-15

"In my workplace, in the Kita I've built a strong relationship between children and the parents as well. Some of the activities that I done with children are drawing, making mandala, Yoga, playing, also creation of Indian game "Karrom", dancing, cooking, presentation about India creative arts etc. It was not easy to find a space for me to do it but I did it. The parents treated me really good, some of them invited me to their house, we cooked together and we made small trips and holidays together."

