

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

UMH VOLUNTEERISM PROGRAM IN RWANDA



A) General Information

1. What does the project consist of?

The volunteerism program in Rwanda consists of **stays lasting approximately four weeks within that country**, located in the heart of Africa, to participate in UMH development cooperation projects.

2. Who is eligible?

All UMH community members: students, faculty (PDI), staff (PAS), and alumni.

3. When do the stays take place?

During summer. For 2017, there are three calls, one in July, another in August, and the latter in September. Each stay lasts approximately four weeks.

4. How many volunteers make up each group?

In 2017, a total of 24 persons will participate, 8 in each group. One person from each group serves as its coordinator, which is a volunteer who has participated in this program in an earlier edition, and who is responsible for coordinating the group before and during their stay.

5. What is the deadline for presenting my application?

February 24 (2017), at the UMH General Registry, auxiliary registries, or the [universede](#).

B) Requirements, modalities, and training program

1. What are the requirements?

First and foremost is **to be a member of the UMH community**. Depending upon the modality chosen, the language requirements (English and/or French) vary. In addition to other documentation specified in each call (Curriculum vitae, National ID card photocopy, etc.), a program each candidate proposes must be presented in the area/s the candidate wishes to act, and on how it is to be carried out.

2. In what format are the training programs presented?

Each program must be an individual effort and based on the area of intervention selected by each candidate for providing training in Rwanda of approximately 30 hours throughout the 4 weeks in the country. A written presentation of the program must be between 4-6 pages in length. Further information is listed in the call.

3. What modalities may be presented?

A. Educational reinforcement for students enrolled in the schools of San Juan De Nkumba, oriented towards the field of exact sciences (physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, information technology, athletics).

B. Educational reinforcement for students enrolled in the schools of Nemba-1 (languages, natural sciences, geography, mathematics, physics, information technology, athletics...).

C. Support for Rwandan healthcare personnel at the Nemba hospital (physiotherapy, neuropsychology, psychology & psychiatry, laboratory techniques or health management, infrastructure maintenance and installation...).

D. Socio-healthcare for patients and relatives at the Nemba hospital: play-training workshops for children or other patients, hygiene and/or health education, teaching of healthy habits...

E. Training of Rwandan educational personnel for schools in Nemba and San Juan de Nkumba: training for teachers in English, information technology, pedagogy, family planning, athletic strategies...

F. Coordination of volunteer groups: participation experience from previous editions of the volunteer program will be valued.

Note: Although the aforementioned areas are priority areas, new suggestions and ideas in other areas may be accepted provided that they contribute to improving the project. Furthermore, selection as a volunteer does not mean the project that such volunteer

presented will be carried out. The projects presented shall permit the Assessment Commission to classify and subsequently choose the projects that will be carried out.

4. I have no language-level certification. Does this mean I am ineligible to apply?

Language accreditation, in addition to that from official certification (the Spanish Official School of languages or certification recognized by CRUE), can be validated by language-level interviews given by the UMH or certification of language levels or courses given by public Spanish universities. Applicants undergo language-level interviews in the language they choose..

5. How are the volunteer positions awarded?

The call specifies the scoring criteria and the importance of group multidisciplinary. In short, the applicants are assessed using the following criteria:

1. Specific training in the field wherein the applicant wishes to participate (1 point)
2. Teaching experience or ability (1 point)
3. Language knowledge (1 point)
4. Training program presented (1 point)
5. Training in cooperation (1 point)
6. Participation in cooperation projects and/or links to charitable organizations (1 point)
7. Suitability of the position the applicant opts for (4 points): This assessment is made based on a personal interview. Since interrelationships between the distinct backgrounds of the volunteers are included among the objectives of the project, the Selection Committee will prioritize the existence of a balance between qualifications and specialties of the participants selected so that the makeup of each group encompasses various areas of training.

C) Before traveling

1. Do I have to pay something?

Accommodations and living expenses, as well as group travel within the country, are covered by the UMH. For airfare, and as per the conditions specified in the call, the UMH provides assistance of 700 euros per person, with the volunteer assuming any further costs for this, and an advance of 150 euros is paid to the volunteer once selected. Vaccinations, insurance, travel visas, and other expenses are borne by the volunteer.

2. Do I need to vaccinate myself?

Yes. Currently, in order to enter Rwanda, the only required vaccination is for yellow fever. Hospitals can inform you about which others are recommended before traveling there.

3. Are there other risks I must be aware of?

Rwanda, like many other countries, does not have the health resources that we are accustomed to in Spain. Hence, obeying and following all recommendations by the group coordinator and the person responsible for the project, Mariano Pérez Arroyo, is important, in addition to attending the informative sessions held before traveling.

4. Do I need to acquire insurance?

Yes, the details of which are detailed later on. The UMH will be responsible for managing it.

5. What are the accommodations for the volunteers like?

The UMH has a residence hall located in the Northern Province of Rwanda, in the Nemba District. This residence has all the comforts, and is next to the Nemba schools and hospital.

6. With whom will we work?

Once on the ground, the volunteers will be under the tutelage of the director of the UMH Headquarters in Rwanda Chair, Mariano Pérez Arroyo, who has more than 20 years of experience there. Depending upon your area of participation, you will coordinate more with either teachers or health personnel.

D) Further information/experiences

1. Where can I obtain more information?

In the complete text of the call, and above all in the informative sessions held in February (check the top of this page to consult their schedules). You may also send us an email to sederuanda@umh.es. At <http://internacional.umh.es/en/cooperacion-y-voluntariado/voluntariado-en-ruanda/>, we have put together a collection of testimonies and reports about the program.

2. May I contact a volunteer who has participated in Rwanda to ask him/her questions?

Due to Spanish legislation concerning the protection of data, we cannot make the contact information of any volunteer public, but you can write to us at sederuanda@umh.es, and provide your consent for a volunteer to contact you, and we will find a person who has participated and who is willing to help you resolve possible concerns.