

People generally volunteer to do something meaningful and experience a new culture. However, some volunteer-sending organisations may be more concerned with creating a 'life-changing' experience for the volunteer, with less focus on the purpose and the needs of local communities.

**HERE'S WHAT TO LOOK FOR TO MAKE SURE YOUR TIME OVERSEAS IS SPENT MAKING A GENUINE DIFFERENCE:**



## THINGS TO LOOK FOR: ...IN A VOLUNTEER-SENDING ORGANISATION

### 1 TRACK RECORD

Look for evidence of past achievements and how programs are monitored and evaluated.



### 2 INTEGRITY

A growing number of organisations have ceased orphanage volunteering. Find out who at [rethinkorphanages.org](http://rethinkorphanages.org)



ORPHANAGE

### 3 ACCOUNTABILITY

Some volunteer-sending organisations recruit volunteers for their own programs; others partner with organisations in the destination country and may not have end-to-end accountability for the project or your safety.



### 4 SELECTIVITY

Expect to apply to volunteer and be vetted as if you were applying for a job or university. You should also receive pre-departure support and possibly training.



### 5 CREDIBILITY

Emotive language like 'saving the world' or 'giving children the love they need' may be used to recruit volunteers, but it's not an indicator of quality.



## ...IN A PROGRAM

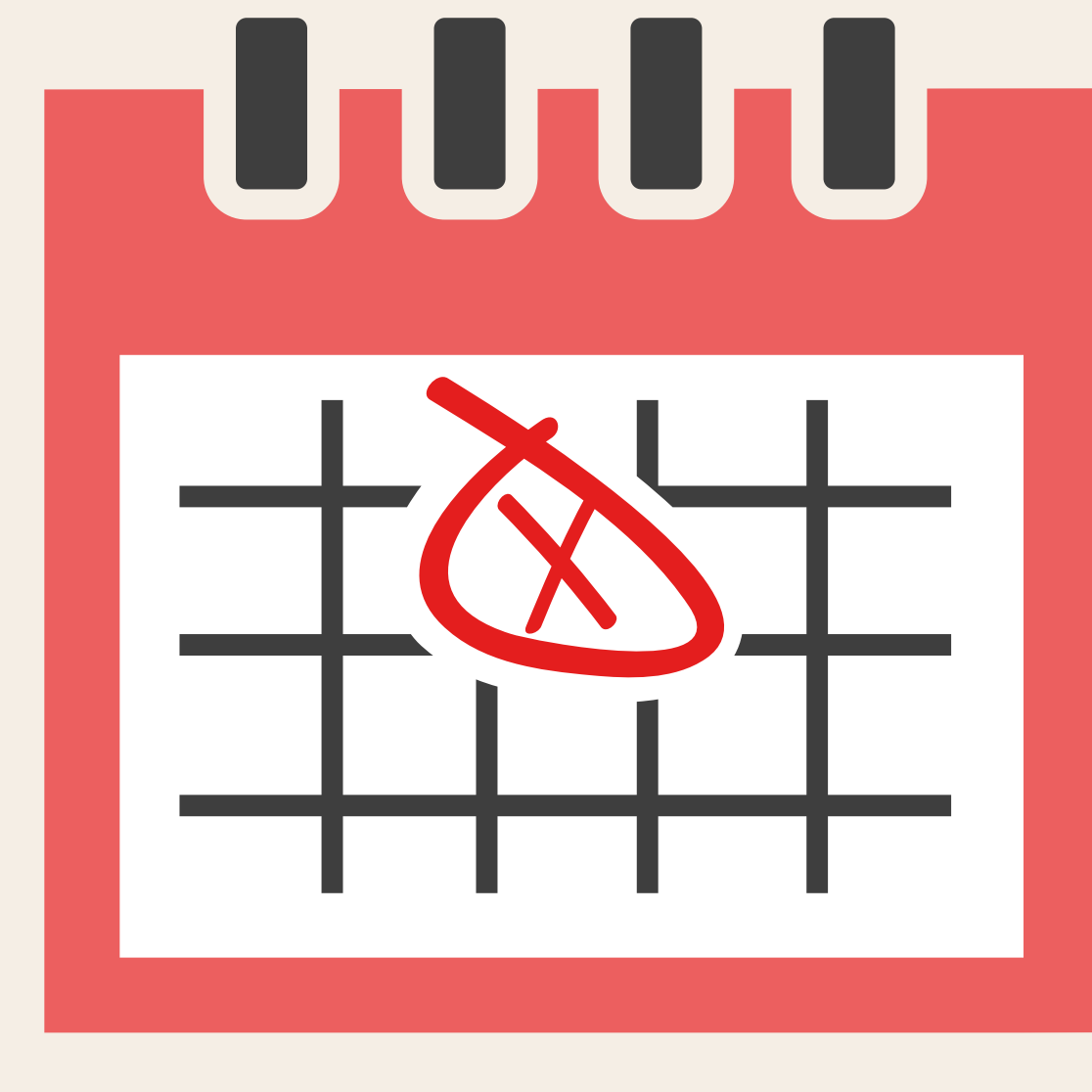
### 6 THE 'NEED'

Make sure your role will enhance local capacity – e.g. by providing training to, or working with, local people to meet a short-term skills gap.



### 7 SUSTAINABILITY

Check there's a project end date, not a long-term dependency on volunteers.



## ...IN YOURSELF

### 8 SKILLS MATCH

What do you have to offer? Skills in high demand include digital, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, language and computer skills.

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### 9 SUITABLY QUALIFIED

Avoid placements for which you are not skilled or qualified. Find out what training and/or support you will receive to accomplish your tasks.



### 10 LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

How will you apply your learnings back home? Employers will be interested in evidence of impact, not just the fact that you have volunteered overseas.

