**Sueños Compartidos**

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**Semester Colombia**

**Sueños Compartidos**

**Semester Program**

Our website is: [www.suenoscompartidos.org](http://www.suenoscompartidos.org)

Program dates

The time commitment is 3-4 months during the following dates:

Semester one: February-May

Semester two: August-November

Recommended travel dates – Arrival in Colombia 3-5 days prior to start date and departure from Colombia 3-5 days after end date – I will provide detailed travel arrangements for accepted teachers (contact info in Colombia, travel options from the airport, travel routes/times, etc.). Feel free to arrive earlier/depart later if you would like to arrange for personal travel before/after the program.

Passport/visa requirements for Colombia – We are entering the country as tourists; for US, Canada, UK, Australia, and New Zealand citizens, the terms are 90 days ($60 exit fee at departure) + 90-day extension (around $50) through Colombia immigration, up to 180 calendar days in Colombia.  IMPORTANT!! If you have a passport from a different country, please check your country's passport/visa requirements for TOURIST stay in Colombia and let me know what the terms are. If you are unsure about your country’s guidelines, we can assist.

General requirements – Undergraduate degree (any field), one year of teaching experience OR CELTA/Oxford Seminars TEFL certificate, and the passport/visa requirements between your country and Colombia.  Keep in mind that in these locations few people speak conversational English, so some knowledge of Spanish is helpful; however, your teaching partners will speak intermediate English, so you do not need to speak Spanish to participate in the program.

Locations within Colombia – for a description of location options, visit our website at:

<http://www.suenoscompartidos.org/teachincolombia.html>

Arrangements in Colombia – We have relationships with local- and state-level offices of Secretaría de Educación. Through these relationships, we arrange school locations, participating students, host families, and in some cases, weekend events for the volunteers.

Lifestyle – The semester program will take place in towns and cities (as opposed to rural areas). Housing is homestay with families. Meals are provided by the community, sometimes with the homestay family and sometimes going to houses of other families for meals.

Planning – We will not have a formal training program. We will work via online collaboration to share ideas, materials, etc.

Responsibilities - you will work as an English teacher assistant in public schools, five days a week, four classes each day.  In some locations, you will teach English to local public school teachers four hours per week to enable them to meet the requirements of Colombia's Programa Nacional de Bilinguismo (basically, they need to improve their English).  So a big opportunity for you with our program is that you are not only teaching children, but also participating in the development of bilingual education in Colombia's public school system with the teachers/leaders of education in Colombia.

Teaching content – Content will depend on the needs and preferences of the local schools; might be a particular book, might be songs, might be games, might be a combination.  The English level is low and resources are limited; the key factor is not the quality of the tools, it is the enthusiasm and creativity of the teacher. Your role is to adapt to and complement the curriculum the school uses as the authority on usage pronunciation, etc., and you are welcome to introduce your own books, games, etc. You are not expected to “lead” the class, nor to engage in classroom management; rather you are working as a teaching assistant.

Security – I have traveled extensively and taught throughout Colombia. Our locations were selected with the specific intent of avoiding security issues. In any area of Colombia (or Latin America for that matter), 90% of the safety factor is common sense – not going to unknown areas alone or at night and not participating in illegal activities at any time. In contrast to the news reports, you will experience a wonderful country and wonderful people!  The warmth of the people is the best part of the program; they are grateful, welcoming, and excited about Sueños Compartidos!

\*\*\*Compensation/expenses\*\*\* - The compensation is room and board with a local community family.  Travel expenses and personal expenses (toiletries, going out, local buses) are not covered. The program is a service we are providing to the community. **Additionally, note that the schools do not pay a fee to Sueños Compartidos, nor do the teachers, students, parents, or communities.**

Expense estimate is as follows:

Airfare to Colombia – varies

Personal expenses – $150/month

Personal weekend travel expenses – varies; $0 to $150/month

International insurance (for those who don’t already have coverage) – $50/month

One option for insurance (feel free to use any company you like) is the following:

<https://www.insubuy.com/img/patriot/international/?affiliateid=patiinsu>

Program fee

After you accept our invitation to participate in a specific location in Colombia and receiving an introduction from the local coordinator, we request a program fee of $25 via Paypal. These proceeds contribute to our website and advertising costs. Like the teaching, all administration is 100% volunteer!

If you would like to apply, please review the application and submit with your resume and a digital photo. In addition, please request two references to email with “volunteer reference for [your name]” in the subject line. If you receive an invitation to participate and accept, we will arrange the travel schedule together to ensure that you arrive at a good time based on our start date/location.

Let me know if you have additional questions, and I look forward to the possibility of your participation with Sueños Compartidos!

Saludos,

Tomas Davis

Country Director, Colombia

Sueños Compartidos

**Sueños Compartidos**

**Volunteer Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Spanish level: \_\_\_\_beginner \_\_\_\_elementary \_\_\_\_intermediate \_\_\_\_advanced

**Program dates request** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contacts (two; name, phone number, email)

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Education (undergraduate, graduate, technical certifications)

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Work experience (employer, location, description, date range for most recent two positions)

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References (please request two references to email me with “Sueños Compartidos reference for [your name]” in the subject line)

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Please provide a personal profile which we can share with other volunteers if you end up participating in the program (50 words +/-).

As a volunteer with Sueños Compartidos, you are going to be alone in a culture significantly different from your own, with relatively few comforts. Describe a personal experience which demonstrates your ability to succeed in such an environment (max 400 words).

\*\*\*Please attach: resume/CV, photo

Email application and attachments to: Tomas Davis, tomas.davis@hotmail.com