

Mostar MSYP

MSYP 2023

Job Description - Teaching Assistant



Mostar Summer Youth Program

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About MSYP

The Mostar Summer Youth Program (MSYP) is a unique, free English-language educational summer program that provides youth aged 14-19 from Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the surrounding area with opportunities to improve their self-confidence and key skills. MSYP aspires to be a hub for youth leadership, volunteerism, and entrepreneurship. The program empowers participants in their educational, social and professional ambitions by connecting them with a uniquely diverse group of peers, as well as organizations and businesses working in and around Mostar. It includes courses that encourage critical thinking, creativity and practical skills including: spoken and written English, leadership, teamwork and creative and strategic thinking. Such skills are highly relevant to Mostar's young population and, unfortunately, largely absent from Bosnia and Herzegovina's formal school curriculum. In previous years, MSYP has featured workshops and courses on a diverse range of subjects including: Art History, Media Studies, International Relations, Social Activism, Business Development, Creative Writing, Critical Theory, Economics, Human Rights, Mathematics and Logic, Philosophy, and Sustainable Development.

MSYP was founded in 2014 by Dilia Zwart, Freya Nowell and Sho Igawa, university students from the UK and the US. Initially, it was established with the help of a *Davis Projects for Peace* grant and local partners *Naša Djeca Fondacija* and *United World College (UWC) Mostar*. The first MSYP had over 40 participants and 15 volunteer staff members, offering 14 taught courses and 12 extracurricular workshops, trips and events. The program received excellent feedback from the volunteers, participants and their families and the local organizations who engaged with it, as well as from the local community more broadly, driving the management team to sustain and grow MSYP ever since. Since its foundation, MSYP has engaged over 90 volunteers (including experienced teachers, university students and working professionals), delivered 9 summer programs for over 350 young people and established several additional programs and activities. We have launched a second annual summer program focused on science education (mostarsyp.org/LAB), published an anthology of our participants' poetry and prose (learnljubav.org), started a youth blog (mostaryouthplatform.wordpress.com) and organized several one-off workshops and taught courses, including coding courses, professional skills workshops, book and film clubs and courses on mental health and emotional intelligence. Our sources of funding have included grants from organizations such as the *United Nations Population Fund*, *Schüler Helfen Leben*, *Konrad Adenauer Stiftung*, *Inclusive Movement for Bosnia and Herzegovina* and local sponsors including IT company *Northcape Software* and design and print firm *Fram Ziral*. Also of note are our private donors and generous in-kind donations from a number of partners, most notably *UWC Mostar*, *INTERA Technology Park* and *Naša Djeca Fondacija*.

In January 2023, we completed registration as a non-governmental organization based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the name *UčiMo Fondacija*. *UčiMo* aims to equip youth with skills and academic knowledge that will empower them in their educational, social, and professional ambitions and engage them as active members of the global community. By working with educators from across Bosnia and Herzegovina and around the world, we foster the exchange of ideas and knowledge across cultures. Our multidisciplinary programs - including our flagship program MSYP - are learner-oriented, drawing on the UčiMo Educational Model: Learn, Engage, Create, Explore, Connect. The word 'UčiMo' can mean both 'we teach' and 'we learn' in the local language, and the emphasis on 'Mo' reminds us of our continued passion for working with and learning from the unique community of our founding city, Mostar. *UčiMo*'s permanent managing team, all of whom are volunteers and several of whom are MSYP alumni themselves, consists of a Board of Directors (Dilia Zwart [Chair], Elma Beslić, Ana Gvozdić, Lana Hadžiosmanović, Marija Ivanović, Emina Mehić, Martina Perić, Bruno Stojčić and Selma Zuljević) and Acting President (Freya Nowell).

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MSYP 2023

This year, MSYP will run between Monday 19 June - Friday 7 July 2023. Workshops, courses and the majority of extracurricular activities and events will be held at UWC Mostar, 09.00-15:00, Monday to Friday throughout the program. Some off-site day trips are also expected to be organised during the program.

Key Information

Job title: Teaching Assistant

Dates: Monday 19 June - Friday 7 July 2023. It is also expected that you will meet with the teacher/s you are supporting in advance of the program and attend a staff meeting on the morning of Sunday 18 June 2023.

Time commitment: approx. 08:45-14:30, Monday-Friday throughout the program; the morning of Sunday 18 June 2023

Location: UWC Mostar, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Main responsibilities:

- Support with the delivery of workshops and events
- Support at least one teacher with the planning and facilitation of a 2-week taught course
- Attend staff meetings

Role Description

Requirements and Expectations

A Teaching Assistant (TA) role at MSYP is an exciting opportunity to gain experience of volunteering, and of teaching and facilitating learning alongside a supportive, experienced team. As a TA at MSYP, you will support at least one of our teachers in their preparation and delivery of a 2-week thematic course taught in English to a group of participants aged 14-19. You will play an important role in supporting our teaching staff to make their courses relevant and engaging for our participants. All staff are also encouraged to attend and contribute proactively to the program's opening and closing events, as well as staff meetings. You will also have the opportunity to help lead participant discussion groups during workshops on topics spanning politics, economics, social entrepreneurship, science and the arts and support with the planning and delivery of a range of activities and events. You should also expect to contribute to some day-to-day program operations as requested by the program management team (e.g. setting up classrooms, collecting printing, translating materials) and to support the rest of the staff team as needed.

No prior relevant experience is required and there are no age requirements for this role, but you must be confident in your spoken English and we particularly encourage applications from students based in Bosnia and Herzegovina who are passionate about working with young people and interested in gaining teaching experience.

Code of conduct and safeguarding checks

You will need to comply with UčiMo's staff code of conduct regarding appropriate staff behaviour for the duration of your work with the program. This will be given to you in advance of the program.



Flexibility

For MSYP to run efficiently, it is important that all staff remain flexible and willing to be called upon to work outside the remit referred to above where it is deemed by the program management team to be in the best interests of the program.

This document summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can vary from time to time at the discretion of the program management team, in consultation with the member of staff.

If you need any additional information or if you have any questions please get in touch with us at mostarsyp@gmail.com