



What is a voluntary social year (FSJ)?

The German government invented in the end of the 70th this possibility for German youth to do voluntary service. Since that time, it gets very popular among German youth and today it is a very important aspect in the social sector of Germany. The general conditions are determined by law. By this law it is indicated that the organizing of the FSJ in Germany requires a German institution as the body responsible for the voluntary service. This “bearer” (German “Träger”) of the FSJ must guarantee the adequate pedagogical support of the volunteers (seminars), the adequate guidance of the volunteers in the projects and the individual support of the volunteers.

The FSJ is invented as a program for German youth, but the law is offering also the possibility to include people from abroad into the program.

IJGD is accredited as such a “Träger” since more than 30 years. In the beginning of the 90th we begin to develop concepts to integrate people from abroad into this program and to offer them an adequate intercultural training and a structure of support which the specific problems in mind that young people in a new cultural environment can face. Even so the volunteers should have in mind that this is a national program and both the conditions determined by the law and the expectations of the projects are go along with the needs of German youngsters.

The projects we can offer for volunteers from abroad are only projects which offer accommodation. Therefore, the number and the variety of projects are much more limited than for German volunteers. For volunteer from abroad we can only offer projects in home for handicapped people.

Expectation towards the volunteers

- The applicants should be between 18 and 26 years old. (If you are older, you still have a chance to use a possibility to volunteer in Germany. Only the project will be financed by BFD. Read more below!)
- The applicants should have good German knowledge
- The applicants should be motivated to work with handicapped people (this could also include the personal hygiene)
- The applicants should be motivated to integrate in Germany

Conditions of FSJ

- The volunteers are working full-time, that means 40 hours a week. The work is in shifts and often also on week-ends
- The volunteers receive pocket money of 165,00 Euro, food (or receive a lump sum of around 217,00 Euro) and accommodation
- The volunteers are entitled to 26 days of holiday.
- A contract states the conditions of the voluntary service
- The volunteers receive a certificate and a qualified report at the end
- The registration in the German social security system is obligatory



- There are no funds for international travel, financial support for sending organisations, language course
- The volunteers get a pedagogic support of 25 days of seminar
- The duration is 6 – 12 month a prolonging up to 18 month is often possible. Our projects prefer people who come for 12 months.

Application process for FSJ

The deadline for applications is **1st of March**. A complete application should include following:

- Filled in application form for FSJ
- Two passport pictures
- CV

Applications that come later are welcomed as long as we have free places.

- In the beginning of April, the applicants will get a call and we will do an interview. After this interview the decision is taken, if the volunteer will be proposed to a project and to which project we will propose him/her. It can also happen that we decide against the participation of a volunteer, when have doubts about the language knowledge or about the motivation.
- We expect the decision of the project in the beginning of May. After that the applicant should take the final decision. Please be aware of the fact that we expect this decision to be well-thought-out. If the volunteer has doubts it is not a big problem, if he/she will withdraw her/his participation at this moment.
- Please understand that we in case that we do not find a project which accept your volunteer have to refuse the application.
- Project start will be normally the 1st of September. Exceptions are possible

FSJ projekti osavõtu tasu on 130€, millele lisanub EstYESi liikmemaks 25€

Kandideerimiseks küsi ankeeti estyes@estyes.ee

Mis vői kes on BFD?!

Bundesfreiwilligendienst – (Voluntary service of the German federation) BFD

On 1st of July 2011 the German Government started a new program for voluntary service with the intention to fill the lack of manpower in the social sector that the abolishment of the compulsory military service (and with that also the end of the compulsory community service) created.

In general, the expectations towards the volunteer and the conditions of the service in BFD for the volunteers are the same as in FSJ.



Here are the points that are different:

- In principal this program is open for everybody, despite the age. Due the fact that our pedagogical support is proved to be adequate for young people and also due to the fact that this program as a new one is under close control of the ministry IJGD decided not to take any risks. Therefore, we will offer that program in the near future not for people who are more than 30 years old. Exceptions can be done.
- The duration of the program can be up to 24 months.