Apply now for a volunteer service in Germany

with the organization

augenhöhe e.v.

From August 2015 to August 2015

In the following document we provide you with an overview about the general conditions of the **same-eye-level volunteer programme** with participants from Palestine, Turkey and Germany!

Application Deadline: 10th of May 2015

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How is a same-eye-level volunteer service like?

Duration

The volunteer services in the year 2015/16 will be **12 month** long plus additional days preparation and debriefing seminar with all volunteers form Palestine, Turkey and Germany. The estimated departure from Palestine will be in mid August 2015 and the estimated return to Palestine will be in August 2015. The exact dates will be given to you as soon as the visa process is initiated – this is to give you a first orientation about the duration of the service.

Preparation Seminar	Volunteer Work in Project	Debriefing Seminar
Approximately 10-14 days August 2014	12 month September 2014 - August 2015	Approximately 5-7 days August 2015

Work Hours and Holidays

The weekly work hours in the project are **39 hours** and usually spread over 5 days. Depending on the project the volunteers will have shift work with early, late and weekend shifts. The volunteers get **16 days** of holiday during their 8 months work in the project – the amount of holidays is calculated according to the in German law statutory 2 days off for each full month of work.

Monthly Payment and Insurance

The project pays the volunteers a monthly pocket money to cover parts of their living expenses. It is up to the project to decide on the exact amount of money but you can roughly expect to get **200-300 Euro** monthly. Additionally to the pocket money the project pays the contributions to the volunteers insurances (health, work, bonds, general liability).

Accommodation

The volunteers live in host families where they will be part of the family which also requires a strong willingness to acclimate.

What projects can you apply for?

Augenhöhe e.V. cooperates with a social project for disabled people in Germany

- the **Anna-Katharinenstift** in Karthaus (North Rhine-Westphalia), a home for physically and mentally disabled people: www.**anna-katharinenstift**.de

It is important to us that our volunteers feel comfortable in the project and appreciate the work they are doing. Hence, you need to be able to identify with the idea of the project and picture yourself contributing to it for the course of the volunteer service. Therefore, we kindly ask you to read the following information and look at the projects' homepage.

Anna-Katharinenstift Karthaus

Project Type	Former estate that serves as a home for people with mental, physical and emotional disabilities.
Project Mission	The project's mission is to provide people with disabilities with a home, where they are stimulated and cared for. The AKST aims to enable its participants to lead a fulfilled and happy life.
Project Structure	The project consists of housing groups on campus and within the region, as well as a workshop in which some of the project participants' work. It hosts a total number of over 300 adults with mental, physical or emotional disabilities. They come to the AKST to lead their entire life or only parts of it within the project. The project provides them with support, escort, and encouragement in all areas of life, independently of the participants' denomination. In order to accomplish this, the housing groups are set up to build a kind of family. They consist of 4-12 residents and 6-12 staff members.

Field of Activity for the Volunteer	The volunteers will become part of one of the groups of people living together or the workshop. As part of the group they are expected to

	become a member of the family and join in on all kinds of activities the group does. These range from common meals, over theatre to art and excursions and most importantly include the conduct of every-day life. If the relationship with the inhabitants is developed accordingly, the volunteer may also take over direct physical care for a resident. Depending on the situation the volunteers might also be able to organize activities themselves. If the volunteer becomes part of one of the groups that live off-campus, for example in town, the work is focused more on support of independent living instead of physical care.
Possibility for Incorporation of own Ideas	Depending on the group the volunteer gets involved with, there is the possibility to organize own activities or excursions with the group. However, the project is focused on every-day-life and thus the volunteer's initiative should be concentrated on the establishment of the relationships.
Number of volunteers	The project is hosting about 14 German volunteers each year. They are usually each placed in different groups or workshops but collaborate in joint events and see each other on a regular basis.
Working hours	The working hours are organized in shifts, which requires the volunteer to work every second weekend. The total working week consists of 39 hours.
Language	Communication is of particular importance, as the core of the work will be the relationship to the people living in the project. For the start a good command of the English language is enough; however, the fast acquisition of the German language should be an aim.
Accommodation	The volunteer will stay with a host family or in shared living in the near-by city Dülmen (46,000 inhabitants, about 7km from the project)..

What Are the General Conditions and requirements?

We kindly ask you to read the information provided on our homepage thoroughly. Before applying to the programme you should decide for yourself if you can identify with the principles and ideas of the organisation. You can access all information in German but also in English by pressing the language button in the top right corner of the website. www.augenhoehe-ev.de.

There are several requirements that you have to meet.

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Ability to fluently communicate in English
- Willingness to learn German (before and during the volunteers service)
- Strong interest in the project work
- Strong interest in the same-eye level programme

Augenhöhe e.V. is an organization mainly founded and lead by young adults that wants to promote social and cultural encounters and connections between people. It is important to us that our volunteers understand that the planning and execution of the volunteer services is a great effort and needs support from everyone involved. Therefore, we expect our volunteers to contribute to the programme in various ways and refuse to be a pure service provider – the programme is a **joint project for human encounter** and not an all inclusive adventure trip!

What does Augenhöhe e.V. provide?

Augenhöhe will support and mentor the volunteers starting from the application process. Every volunteer has a **mentoring team** that speaks Arabic/Turkish as well as German in order to provide the best personal support. It is essential to have a trustworthy contact person during the preparation phase, as the **visa application process** can be quiet demanding and complicated. We do support the volunteers in every way but expect independent action, too (e.g. going to the embassy). To get a visa basic German **language skills** are required (especially if applying from Palestine) which is why we advice our volunteers to take professional language classes. The course costs will be covered by Augenhöhe only if the volunteer passes the exam

and gets the needed certification. Additionally, we offer **tandem-courses** to get conversational practice with native speakers via Skype. Before the start and after the end of the volunteer work in the project Augenhöhe holds **seminars** with the volunteers. These are an essential part of the programme because the participants from Palestine, Turkey and Germany meet and get to know each other.

Summing up Augenhöhe provides:

- Organisation of the application process and volunteer service
- Mentoring Team
- Support during the visa application process
- Help to improve German skills
- Travel planning
- Pedagogical seminars
- Financial costs: visa, flights, seminars and language course

What are the volunteers expected to contribute?

As stated above the programme is designed to be a joint project of intercultural encounter requiring everyone to commit to the idea and group. We expect the volunteers to work with us instead of expecting Augenhöhe to be a full-service provider.

We ask our volunteers to write 6 **reports** about their experience with the same-eye-level programme and project work. These reports are supposed to be send to the volunteers family, friends and donators but also published on our homepage.

One main aspect that we want volunteers to contribute to the fundraising – Augenhöhe does raise all its money through fundraising activities. There is no fee that volunteers are expected to pay. But as we want to give young people from rich and poor backgrounds the opportunity to join the same eye-level-programme, we need to raise money with a sense of solidarity in the group. We are aware that it might be difficult to raise funds for the programme in Palestine/Turkey but still appreciate the volunteers trying the best their can: commitment and

initiative is essential. Once the volunteers come to Germany we work out a fundraising plan with a minimum of 8 **fundraising activities** during their stay. Possible activities are for example baking and selling cake, giving a concert, making and selling Christmas cards, giving presentations on your home country in exchange for a donation. The raised money does also insure that the programme lives on and new volunteers get a chance to participate.

Augenhöhe has a small **educational programme** and works with schools on topics concerning the Middle East. We meet school classes and commit workshops about the political situation, culture and language. It is always great for the students to meet our volunteers and get first-hand information, which is why we ask the current volunteers to come to 3-5 school meetings with us. This might require travel and holiday arrangements with the project.

Summing up we expect our volunteers to contribute to the programme by:

- Writing reports about your volunteers service
- Doing fundraising activities before and during your stay in Germany
- Participating in the Augenhöhe educational project in German schools

How can you apply?

The application process has three phases:

1. Application Form:

Attached to this document or provided on our homepage you will find the application form. Take time to fill out the application form in English and send it to the following e-mail address until the **15th of May 2015**:

bewerbung@augenhoehe-ev.de

You will be sent an e-mail confirmation as soon as we received you application. The regional selection committees view all application forms and invite the most suited applicants to a face-to-face interview. Invitations will be sent out via e-mail so please make sure to check your account regularly.

2. Face-to-Face Interview:

The regional selection committees will take the time to get to know you personally. It is important to us that the volunteers can tell us about their motivation, expectations and concerns about the volunteer service.

3. Skype-Interview:

After the face-to-face interview Augenhöhe will pass on your application form on to the project. We only recommend the applicants that we believe to be suited for the programme. In a Skype interview the applicant as well as the project will get a chance to get to know each other before the final acceptance.