

Teaching and community project, Ghana

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Firstly, I would just like to take this opportunity to say thanks for allowing me to be part of this scheme, as the bursary helped me immensely in being able to have the sufficient funds for my volunteering work. I wanted to be able to put my knowledge to actual use and hence be able to help people who needed it, this scheme and the volunteering company Original Volunteers (<https://www.originalvolunteers.co.uk/>) allowed me to do this.



So, after a very long trip, I had finally arrived at my destination in Mpraeso, Ghana. On the first day I did not do any volunteer work, but instead went to the markets with one of the coordinators to get essentials I needed for my time there, things like food, water, sim cards etc. I also had a meeting where I was asked what work I wanted while I was there and was then given more info about the current and future construction work then had going on. Later in the evening I had met the volunteers who had come back from their day of work, and just spent time getting to know everyone.

The current work they had going on (as this was decided by the volunteers at the start of the week) was painting and teaching. We went to one of the local schools and took turns in teaching kids aged three to roughly fourteen. We taught them maths, English and science which was challenging at first but very rewarding after seeing the end result. We also helped painting the nearby nursery to try and make it a colourful and fun environment for the smaller kids to be in. The painting and teaching were finished after one and a half weeks, where we then started a new project.

The new project was to renovate an old library that was being used at another school in another village, the library was old and a very unsafe environment to be in, especially for young kids. As this was a long project and I was there for only a limited time, I was only involved at the first week and a half of the project. We first knocked down all the window frames, doors and anything that we thought should be replaced or gotten rid of. This was a quick process and only took one day of work. The foundation around the library we also deemed too weak and unsafe, so we had to completely get rid of the floor around the library, ready for it to be replaced. We then were able to move on to the next process and start renovating, we started off by making cement using raw materials i.e sand, clay and water by freehand (so mixing was done by shovels). We then started to pour the cement where we had dug the hole around the library ready for itself to set. After the foundations were done, my time had come to an end and the rest of the renovation work was done by the other volunteers.



Every Wednesday instead of volunteering we would do outreach. Outreach is a program in which all the volunteers from the organisation would go to a very poor village to donate and spend time with the people there. Donations included water filters, food, money and much more. These villages are what I would describe as raw Africa, yes, the accommodation I had was simple and basic, but these villages were in extreme poverty, there was no form of infrastructure for miles and living conditions included mud houses with straw roofs. Outreach definitely opened my eyes to how much I take my life for granted.

In conclusion I can say that this experience has been one of the best of my life and I will never forget all the people I met, all the memories I had and simple everything I did whilst I was there. I would highly recommend this project to other students and I really hope my experiences there can motivate other students to take part in a similar thing.

