Life & Hope Association (LHA) - NGO

**Placements:** 2 students (preferably female)

**Location:** Wat Damnak, Siem Reap

**Description:** This organization is run by Buddhist monks at Wat Damnak. Their main mission is to work with the most disadvantaged members of society—providing compassionate care and educational opportunities, especially to poor and vulnerable children and to disadvantaged young women.” Placements would involve formal classroom teaching of ESL in LHA’s Foreign Language School, and more informal English speaking and mentoring of young women in LHA’s vocational Sewing School. Students are primarily young adults. You will work under the supervision of Khmer classroom teachers, a LHA volunteer coordinator, and the project’s directors, Venerable Hoeurn Somnieng and Venerable Y Nol, both long-time monk social workers. Both Venerable Somnieng and Venerable Y Nol speak English well and have a lot of experience with volunteers. They are young, dynamic and inspiring monastic leaders.

**Requirements/skills:** Willingness to teach ESL to male and female teenagers and adult students, interest in women’s empowerment. LHA is located inside Wat Damnak, so modest clothing would be required every day. Female students in this placement would need to be comfortable interacting with monks and willing to observe all rules of monastery decorum: i.e., observe proper greetings to monks and elderly people, no physical contact with monks, no meetings alone with a monk except in public spaces.
**Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) Children’s Library - NGO**

**Supervisor:** Venerable Y Nol

**Website:** [http://www.lifeandhopeangkor.org](http://www.lifeandhopeangkor.org)

**Placements:**
2 students

**Location:**
Wat Damnak,
Siem Reap

**Description:**
This organization is a non-profit research center and library that supports higher education in
and about Cambodia and Southeast Asia, as well as some programming for Cambodian K-12 students, especially through its popular new children’s library, one of the few of its kind in Cambodia. It is funded by private philanthropists from around the globe, as well as some funding from the US government and private foundations. CKS has international and Khmer staff members. Students placed at CKS would primarily be involved in developing and implementing creative programming for young children at the Children’s Library. The specific program ideas would be developed by the student volunteers working under the supervision of the CKS director and staff, but might include: art projects such as: making puppets or painting, creating books, simple story telling, origami, puppet shows. Other responsibilities might include assisting in CKS’ research library, and computer or graphic design for publicizing CKS events or other outreach materials. Children’s library programs will be offered in coordination with Wat Damnak primary school, so student volunteers in this placement will be interacting with Khmer primary school teachers as well as CKS staff.

**Requirements/skills:** Creativity; interest in working with children; ideas about teaching crafts and art projects to children; interest in children’s books and libraries; computer design skills would be welcome. CKS is located inside Wat Damnak, so modest clothing would be required every day. CKS is also a formal educational institution and students working with the institution would be expected to behave professionally in their interactions with visiting researchers, philanthropists, scholars, and others involved in or attending CKS events and activities.

**Supervisor:** Dr. Krisna Uk

**Website:** [http://khmerstudies.org](http://khmerstudies.org)

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**Treak Community - NGO**

**Placements:** 2 - 4 students (up to 6 if interested in building/community gardening projects)

**Location:** Phum Treak (just outside of Siem Reap)
City); about a 30 minute bike ride or 20 minute tuk-tuk ride from Wat Damnak.

**Description:** This is a grass-roots community organization run by Rin Salin, a Khmer woman with deep connections to social service work and who grew up in a similar kind of community. The project is not explicitly religious but the organization’s vision and programs are grounded in Buddhist values of generosity, care and self-dignity. Treak village is poor by Khmer standards, with one third of its 331 families on the “poverty list,” earning less than US 40¢ per day. Some families are on the “level 2” poverty list, which means that they subsist on even less or have no resources at all. This community organization is still getting established so this would be a chance to contribute to launching a new project in a very hands-on way. The Treak community center currently runs a nursery school and an English language program. They also do various kinds of outreach to families in need and teach basic hygiene in the community. Treak is also currently clearing land to start a model community organic garden at the facility with vegetables and fruit trees, and they work on some building projects: trading local volunteer labor at their own site in exchange for financial help to families in crisis, and assisting with house-building in the village for homeless families. Volunteers could choose to work with young children in the nursery, teach ESL classes in coordination with a Khmer teacher, or work on gardening/building projects. (A combination of teaching and building/gardening is also possible).
Requirements/skills: Willingness to teach ESL in a multi-age classroom setting with a structured curriculum. ESL teachers will serve as native speakers under the guidance of an experienced Khmer ESL teacher. Background or interest in teaching pre-school aged children through play, music, art, and other activities. Musical talents would be a plus for this position. Background or interest in organic gardening and sustainable agriculture; ability to work in the hot sun is necessary for this job. Experience with or interest in learning landscaping, concrete or brick laying and carpentry skills, and ability to work outside.

Supervisor: Ms. Rin Salin

Website: [http://voluntaryprojectsoverseas.org/our-work-in-cambodia/](http://voluntaryprojectsoverseas.org/our-work-in-cambodia/) (This organization places students in this site and contains information on the projects).

**Cambodian School Project - NGO**

**Placements:** 2 students (up to 4 students if advanced computer skills)

**Location:** Pouk, a small district market town on Hwy 6 (about 20 - 30 minutes by tuk-tuk from Wat Damnak)

**Description:** Cambodian School Project (CSP) is a NGO founded by a Madison public school Khmer-American K-12 teacher (now retired and living in Cambodia) and a Madison social worker. CSP has built and helps to fund a number of schools in poor villages around Siem Reap province. Partially in response to land issues (declining land availability and land loss) in some
of these villages, CSP has been seeking ways to help some children of farmers find alternative future employment to agriculture. The Pouk Technical School was started several years ago to train rural students (aged 18 - 21) in computer, sewing, English, and small business skills. The school also helps place students in jobs or start their own small businesses once they graduate from the program. Students grow their own organic vegetables on property adjacent to the technical school and raise egg chickens; soon, they will also have fruit trees and a fish-raising pond as additional self-sustaining food sources. Students in this placement will teach English under the direction of a knowledgeable Khmer teacher, and also engage in formal and informal discussions with Khmer students about world issues and cultures. Students will be expected to help Khmer students with gardening and food preparation tasks, and will generally eat lunch at the school (participating in community meals is an important part of the daily routine). Students with advanced computer skills may be asked to assist with the computer skills classes, and all students would be invited to interact with technical school students on social media such as Facebook in order to help improve their English communication skills.

Requirements/skills: Willingness to teach ESL to 18-21 year old students under the direction of a Khmer teacher. Willingness to take part in community tasks such as occasional gardening and food preparation, and to participate in community meals. Interest in engaging in formal and informal discussions with rural Khmer peers. Ability to get up early enough to take a 30 minute tuk-tuk ride to placement site in order to begin teaching by about 8:00 AM! Specialized computer skills (i.e., knowledge of particular programs, repair or programming skills) would also be extremely welcome.
Supervisor: Mr. Sarith Ou

Website: http://www.khmerschool.org

Shinta Mani Foundation: Hospitality Training Development Center and Farm Training Development Center - Non-profit Foundation and Socially Responsible Business

Placements: 2 students

Location: Students will divide their time between the Hospitality Training School at Shinta Mani Hotel in Siem Reap (corner of Oum Khun and
14th St), about a 15 minute walk or 10 minute tuk-tuk ride from Wat Damnak, and the Farm Training School at Phum Banteay Srei in Banteay Srei District. Phum Banteay Srei is about 50 minutes to 1 hour from Siem Reap off the road to Banteay Srei (in Angkor Park). Students will travel there by car or tuk-tuk.

**Description:** Shinta Mani Foundation is the philanthropic organization attached to Shinta Mani Hotel, one of the most elegant hotels in Siem Reap that has long been recognized as a pioneering model for socially responsible businesses in Cambodia. The Foundation supports major projects in four areas: vocational training and education, healthcare, small business development, and agricultural training. The Foundation runs two training schools where students will work: a culinary and hospitality training school (located in the hotel) that equips students with skills for employment in the hospitality industry, including English language, as well as a brand new (since 2013) farm training school in Banteay Srei village, that teaches villagers agricultural methods including organic growing techniques, solar energy technologies such as solar water pumping, fish pond management, seed preservation, compost and soil development, and hygiene and ESL classes for village children. Both schools serve students from largely rural and/or impoverished backgrounds who would not have many opportunities to study without support from the school. The farm school was developed in part in order to help stem the tide of villagers forced to leave their families to become migrant rural workers in Thailand. Students will assist Mr. Jedam with teaching ESL at the hospitality school in Siem Reap several days a week, and travel out to the village farming school on other days to work with Mr. Vong on English language classes for village children. Depending on skills and interests, some students might also be able to assist with farming and gardening chores. For profiles and photos of recent hospitality students, see: [http://shintamani.com/foundation/education/student-profiles/](http://shintamani.com/foundation/education/student-profiles/), and for more photos of both centers see: [https://www.facebook.com/ShintaManiFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ShintaManiFoundation)

**Supervisors:** Buon (“Alex”) Chanthou (Farming Development Center Project Manager), Clayton Jedam (Hospitality Development Center Administrator), and Soeur Vong (Farm Manager and ESL teacher)

**Requirements/skills:** Good communication skills; adaptability; strong interest in rural poverty and willingness to travel to village on weekly basis; ability to adapt to two different working environments, one a formal hotel setting and the other a rural community; neat, well-groomed
appearance important for in-town training school; ability to work or teach outside in very hot weather at farm training center. This is an extremely professional setting; students placed here will be role models for students in training and will need to demonstrate maturity, commitment and a strong work ethic.

Website: http://shintamani.com/foundation/.

Elma Trust - NGO

Placements: 2 students

Location: Phum Sombua, 7 km from Wat Damnak – a 15 minute tuk-tuk road on a paved road. Elma School is located near Wat Jauv.

Description: This project is funded by a UK-based donor who set up the school to respond to the needs of impoverished rural villagers. The Elma School provides education to students from five surrounding villages (Sombua, Veal, Thmey, Takong, and Jauv) and it is the only non-governmental school in the area. Students attend government schools in the mornings or afternoons only – and this can be difficult for poor families since in most government schools, students are required to pay daily fees to teachers. The Elma School provides free high-quality education for students combining the teaching of English with activities in art, music, and sports. The philosophy of the school enables students to learn through creative and athletic activities and play as well as through traditional language classes. Students also learn English through being introduced to the biographies of famous individuals such as the late King Sihanouk of Cambodia and President Obama, an activity that also promotes their knowledge of the world. The school is run by a
young, creative teacher/school director, Mr. Sann Sieng, who comes from an impoverished rural background himself but who managed to put himself through college to obtain a graduate degree in education. Student volunteers will work under the supervision of Mr. Sieng and Khmer classroom teachers.

There are currently 288 students in the school from age 7 to 17, and 7 Khmer teachers. All of the children come from poor farming families and many walk to school daily from as far away as 8 km. They are eager to learn!

Requirements/skills: Willingness to teach ESL to students at different levels with the guidance of an experienced Khmer classroom teacher; ability to teach art, music, sports, or game playing would be extremely welcome (volleyball and soccer are especially popular sports in Cambodia). Ideas for lessons that promote language learning through creative activities or sports; ability to develop materials for the school’s “famous people” curriculum. The school starts early (7:30 am) so students placed here must commit to rising early! Students working in this placement will also need to dress neatly according to Khmer professional standards for teachers (usually a white or light colored “collar shirt” and dark pants or skirt).

Supervisor: Mr. Sann Sieng

Website: http://www.elmatrust.org

Cambodian Buddhist Association for Vulnerable Children - Grassroots religious organization in the process of becoming a NGO

Placements: 2 students (part-time)

Location: About 5 minutes by tuk-tuk or 10 minutes by bicycle from Wat Bo Lanka, in neighboring village, and about 15 - 20 minutes by tuk-tuk from Wat Damnak
Description: Cambodian Buddhist Association for Vulnerable Children (CBAVC) is a new NGO developed by a visionary young monk who is trying to respond to the problems of impoverished families and children living near his wat. He understands these issues well, since he grew up in severely poor conditions himself. The organization is currently running on a shoe-string, with small donations from international sources. There are two projects associated with this NGO, a small English language program for students in the Wat Bo Lanka neighborhood and a community development project in Boeung Dounpa Village, Chi Kraeng District (about an hour and a half outside of Siem Reap) including a school and well-digging. This could not be a full-time placement since the English language program classes close to Wat Bo Lanka are only offered from 8 am to 9 am on weekdays (and later in the afternoon and evening when we will have other activities) but there might be a possibility of combining ESL teaching for CBAVC with other service placements. CBAVC has a daily curriculum developed by the monks at Wat Bo Lanka, and a team of monks supervise the daily classes and coordination of native language volunteers when they are available. The benefit of this placement would be exposure to the energy and visionary ideas of young activist monks; the challenge would be that this is a very new grass-roots Buddhist organization without the experience and track-record of other NGOs described above.

Supervisor: Venerable San Van
**Requirements/skills:** Willingness to teach ESL to young (5-12 year old) children with a minimum of resources. Class sizes are large and the facilities are minimal, so student volunteers working with this project would need to be extremely flexible, patient and mature.

**Website:** [http://www.cbavc.org](http://www.cbavc.org)