

VSA Blended Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Curriculum Development Adviser
Country	Solomon Islands
Location	Honiara
Partner Organisation	Don Bosco Technical Institute
Duration	6 Months
Sustainable Development Goals	

41773

1. Partner organisation overview

Don Bosco Technical Institute (Don Bosco) is part of the Don Bosco Network which is a worldwide federation of Salesian NGOs. The work was started in 1859 by a priest named John (Don) Bosco who believed "Education is the great art of forming human beings." Don Bosco focusses mostly young people that drop out of the school system. The Institute is a Catholic Organization which is open to young women and men who are technically inclined and are ready to commit themselves to change. Not all the young people have access to all levels of education, especially early childhood and secondary school education.

To present young people with options, Don Bosco offers technical education based on reason, religion and kindness. The institute is focussed on training a generation that is able to fulfil the expectations of a variety of trade industries. They also support young people to develop their personality and individuality based on their strength and interests. To achieve their objectives, Don Bosco involves students in decision-making and in clubs as well as programs outside of the regular school schedule. All these activities are centred around a three-year course.

Don Bosco currently recruits teachers who have training in a trade that is offered as part of the curriculum. While the teachers know their trade, they do not have training in how to teach and train others. There is lack of structure to how teaching takes place, and the Institute has identified that there is need for curriculum to be developed to train teachers who will teach in vocational skills training centres. Currently there is one training centre that offers training at certificate level for few trades.

2. Assignment overview

Don Bosco would like to introduce a course in vocational skills teaching. The diploma will be a two-year course that includes basic foundations of teaching, pedagogy, teaching skills, policies and leadership. Don Bosco currently has an outline of what they would like covered in the diploma programme. A VSA volunteer is being sought to support Don Bosco to review current curriculum outline to ensure it contains relevant areas that should be covered, and how to structure the whole programme. The volunteer will begin by working remotely and if/when required to will go to Solomon Islands for part of the assignment.



3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

Don Bosco has a Vocational Skills Teachers' Training Diploma Programme.

Outcome 1

Don Bosco has a proposed framework for development of the Vocational Skills Teachers' Training Diploma Programme.

- Review of curriculum outline.
- Review of Vanga Training Centre and Don Bosco Port Moresby Curriculum to determine what diploma level certification would include.
- Propose framework for development of curriculum.

Outcome 2

Don Bosco has recommended curriculum for Vocational Skills Teachers' Training Diploma Programme.

- Recommendation of content for each of the proposed subject areas.
- Recommendation on curriculum for each of the subject areas.

Outcome 3

Don Bosco has a two-year Vocational Skills Teachers' Training Diploma Programme structure.

- Recommend teaching schedule over two years that allows for each subject to be covered adequately.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The Curriculum Development Adviser will work with the Don Bosco staff team, in a manner that supports shared learning in curriculum development. They will report directly to the Rector.

The volunteer will review the current programme outline and ensure that the Principal and other key staff understand the process to be taken, and are mentored where possible.

The volunteer and Don Bosco will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA Programme Manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.



5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- Qualified in technical education.
- Experience of working in a technical education institution.
- Experience in overlooking technical education program.

Person specifications (personal)

Essential

- Experience as an institution head which caters for technical education.
- Experience in formulating curriculum for technical education.
- Experience teaching in a vocational learning environment
- Experience designing learning for adult learners.
- Understanding of different learning recognition styles
- Familiarity with unit standards (more from being able to break down learning modules into workable and coachable "chapters") - this would be very optional though

Desirable

- Flexibility
- Experience living and working in a Melanesian country/low resource setting
- Commitment to empowerment of local people
- Is willing to work with a different context (Solomon Islands).
- Computer literate.

VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation.
- Cross cultural awareness.
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively.
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community.
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks.
- Initiative and resourcefulness.
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange.

6. Living Situation

Honiara is the business centre of Solomon Islands and as such is a melting pot for people from all the island groups that make up the diverse nation. A hot and dusty place, Honiara offers most facilities albeit in a rudimentary form. You are strongly encouraged to build relationships in the local community and socialise with Solomon Islanders at every opportunity, as this will enrich your experience of living in Solomons. However, entertainment options are few and far between so there is also a very active expatriate social scene. There are various clubs and social groups in Honiara, which you will get to know with time.



VSA will provide basic, furnished accommodation with gas facilities for cooking. In Honiara, you will have access to power (although power outages can occur), phone, internet, piped water, restaurants, a variety of shops and a large expatriate population. Public transport is very cheap within Honiara. The local bus service is provided by a plethora of vans, and some larger buses. A single fare of SBD3 applies, regardless of the length of the trip. Taxis charge a moderate fare (currently SBD10 per kilometre) but it is wise to establish a fare before commencing a journey.

Most volunteers feel safe in Solomon Islands, but it is important to know the risks and take personal responsibility for your safety. As in many countries, foreigners tend to be the target of petty crime, so always be alert and take precautions. In general, there are no problems moving around the majority of Honiara during the day, but it is not safe to walk or catch public transport alone in Honiara after dark.

For more information, see <https://vsa.org.nz/what-we-do/countryregion/solomon-islands/>.

Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA supports partners to accompany volunteers on assignments of six months or longer. However, volunteers with accompanying dependents will not be considered for this assignment.

Fundraising

Volunteers are encouraged to fundraise at least \$1000 with the support of VSA's fundraising team. Accompanying partners are encouraged to raise the same amount. All funds raised will help VSA keep its programmes in action and support future volunteers.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be inoculated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.

Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.



Blended assignment volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

E-volunteer

Reimbursements

Volunteers will receive a monthly honorarium of NZ\$90 for a part-time assignment. This amount is expected to reimburse the volunteer for costs associated with undertaking the assignment

In country

Reimbursements and grants

1. Volunteers will receive an establishment grant of NZ\$750 to help them set up in their country of assignment. For volunteers with an accompanying partner (whether that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$1,100 per couple.
2. For two-year assignments, the volunteer will receive a rest and respite grant of NZ\$1000 on completion of the first year.
3. A resettlement grant of NZ\$200 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on completion of the assignment.
4. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of SBD 7,000.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. For security purposes volunteers in Honiara should expect to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract prior to departure.

