



VOLUNTEERS FOR CHORNOBYL (OXFORD VOLUNTEERS FOR CHORNOBYL SCHEME)

Deadline for applications: 30 June 2011

When: 22 August – 10 September

Where: Ukraine, Kyiv and northern region of Ukraine (Polissia)

Who: Postgraduate Students

For more information contact: Dzvinka Kachur Dzvinka.kachur@undp.org.ua

The UN “International Chernobyl Research and Information Network”(ICRIN), the Oxford University Ukrainian Society and the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" with the support of the UN Volunteers are happy to announce opening of the applications call for the *Oxford Volunteers for Chernobyl* scheme.

2011 is 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Volunteers (IYV), proclaimed by the United Nations and the year of the 25th anniversary of Chernobyl accident.

Brief Description

Six volunteers from Universities outside of Ukraine and six volunteers from National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” or other Ukrainian Universities will spend three weeks in August-September 2011 working on specific projects targeting development of the Chernobyl-affected areas in Ukraine in line with the UNDP targets.

The goal of the programme is to provide knowledge resources and strengthen the developmental process in the Chernobyl-affected area through international cooperation, as well as to increase awareness of and share knowledge about the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and the developmental approach for overcoming them through the involvement of students from all Universities but in particular from the University of Oxford (UK) and the National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” (Ukraine).

Volunteers will be familiarised with the area, history of the Chernobyl accident and under the supervision of UNDP & National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla academy” teams would conduct a small research resulting in a written report on one of the topics linked to the developmental agenda in a specific area. Depending on the selected projects, volunteers will work with local authorities, national experts, local businesses, community organisations, etc.

During their stay volunteers will work at the territories that are safe for living but are recognised as Chernobyl-affected: the fourth and third zone of radioactive contamination, as well as territories where resettled people from the first zone (exclusion zone) live. **Volunteers are not expected to work within the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone or on the territory of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station** (Information about Chernobyl zones is provided below). Volunteers from Universities abroad will be partnered with English speaking students from Ukrainian Universities to work on one or similar project.

Chornobyl-affected Areas

The Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant explosion took place on April 26, 1986, at 01:23 a.m., causing subsequent radioactive contamination of the surrounding geographic area. It is regarded as the worst accident ever in the history of the nuclear power. Large areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia were badly contaminated, resulting in the evacuation and resettlement of over 336,000 people. Nevertheless, more than an estimated one million people still live in the affected areas and face the accident's long-term effects and challenges. The serious environmental problem has been exacerbated by the chronic economic crisis that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. With the region's severe economic decline, many households have become reliant on government support to sustain their livelihoods.

PROSPECTIVE PROJECTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are expected to work in close cooperation with community leaders, local authorities, NaUKMA and UNDP experts to investigate the situation in communities and to indicate and develop community-based projects. All projects will target development and preservation of Polissia culture at the Chornobyl-affected areas.

□ Prospectives for Community-based or Green Tourism

Chornobyl-affected area is being quickly taken over by the wild life. How could these opportunities be used to benefit local communities that continue to live in the affected areas?

□ Preserving Polissia culture and opportunities for cultural tourism

'Local tourism' is being promoted as a solution for the culturally rich, but economically deprived Polissia area. In what ways could this concept be further developed and strengthened to serve the local communities?

□ Health and Healthy life style

The health is identified by Chornobyl communities as a priority area that should be supported by international and national community. How the state of health of local communities can be improved and how the healthy life style can be promoted?

□ Regional marketing strategy

It was identified that Chornobyl-affected areas are suffering from the negative stigma related to Chornobyl accident. At the same time Polissia is widely acknowledged by scholars to be the region where the oldest elements of ethnography and culture of Eastern Slavs are concentrated. How the region can be re-branded?

□ Development of international partnership between local authorities in Ukraine and abroad

In 2009 UNDP has supported partnership building between Ukrainian and Polish communities, as result 39 partnership agreement have been signed between local authorities. The role of volunteers would be to support communication and cooperation between partners

□ Infrastructure profile – challenges for development

Due to lack of investments at the territories that were affected by Chornobyl accident the infrastructure is believed to be underdeveloped. What are needs for the infrastructure development to ensure tourism and local development?

□ Youth Development and Information and Communication Technologies

UNDP has supported the establishment and the use of the Internet in a number of distant villages. Assess the role that internet presently plays in local development and evaluate its further utility in facilitating the community development in Polissia region. How internet can be used by local youth to improve their opportunities for development? How ICT centres can cooperate with one another?

□ Dissemination of information on the consequences of Chornobyl to local population

What people know and do not know about Chornobyl nowadays? How does the local knowledge influences the opportunity for development?

□ Biodiversity conservation in the region

Chornobyl-affected area is being quickly taken over by the wild life. How could these opportunities be used for effective biodiversity conservation and for the benefit of the local communities?

How to apply?

For international students:

1. Fill out the [Application Form](#) (further in this document).
2. Write a letter of motivation describing your qualifications, research project that you would like to undertake and possibilities to achieve it in expected timeframe. It is important that your research project corresponds to proposed areas of work or with the general objectives of the UNDP.
3. Submit your application to Ms. Dzvinka Kachur dzvinka.kachur@undp.org.ua with the subject line 'Oxford Volunteers for Chernobyl Scheme'.

For students from Ukraine:

1. Fill out on-line [Application Form](#) (<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGVzOUR6YVVVYekhfbC14RFdfVm9HQ0E6MQ>).

Financial and other arrangements

All travel costs as well as living expenses should be covered by volunteers themselves. However, organizers will support logistics and finding the most suitable accommodation during the stay in the communities as well as during the seminars. The accommodation during community stay is very basic, village style. Approximate cost of stay in Ukraine for one week is about £100. The cost of roundtrip flight from London is about £80.

Volunteers are responsible for their medical insurance themselves.

Scholarship

Participants from Ukraine have an opportunity to receive scholarship to cover their travel expenses to community organizations and the cost accommodation and food during the stay in communities. The cost of accommodation **in Kyiv** for Ukrainian participants **will not** be covered.

Participants from universities outside of Ukraine could receive financial support to cover transportation to communities and some cost of accommodation to stay in communities. No financial support to cover trip to Ukraine or stay in Kyiv will be provided.

To apply for the scholarship please state so in your application.

For more information please write to Dzvinka.kachur@undp.org.ua

About UNDP priorities in Chernobyl recovery

UNDP aims at boosting the recovery and development in Chernobyl-affected areas of Ukraine, in accordance with the February 2002 UN report on Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident: A Strategy for Recovery. Additionally, UNDP supports the Government of Ukraine in its efforts to mitigate lasting social, economic and ecological consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and build more secure and prosperous living conditions for those living in affected areas.

UNDP is advocating a transition from humanitarian assistance toward a long-term development approach for Chernobyl-affected areas. This approach calls for Chernobyl development assistance that works to enhance the self-reliance of individuals and communities by building their capacity to lead their own initiatives for improved living conditions.

UNDP Objectives:

With a strong emphasis on economic development, the project builds a sustainable national framework supporting the return to normal life in the region and in particular focuses on the following areas:

- Strategic solutions to support **sustainable local economic development**: provision of ongoing advisory support to the Government and assisting in the elaboration of development-oriented solutions for rehabilitation of the Chernobyl-affected regions.
- Enabling **local governance** environment to foster economic development - enhancement of local authorities capacities to transparently define and implement local development strategies, deliver public services, and foster local economic development, including support of strategic planning at rayon level and enhancement of local economic development agencies capacities to facilitate local economic development, provide services for business and authorities in the region.
- Consolidation of **community-based recovery and development** –involvement of a larger number of affected communities in recovery and development processes, ensuring introducing of strong national ownership of the approach that addresses specific needs of communities, undergoes revision of radioactive-contamination zones; and targets youth specific issues in the region such as access to ICT technologies and Internet.
- **Human security through local information provision** - development of national capacities to sustain community-based information provision network for the Chernobyl-affected regions and enhancement of local authorities capacities to improve public awareness and levels of human security in communities living around nuclear facilities based on the Chernobyl lessons learned.

Information on Partners:

UN International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN)

(<http://www.crdp.org.ua/>)

UN International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN) funded by the UN Human Security Trust Fund and implemented in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, began in 2009 and will last three years. The project is a joint effort by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Activities planned under the ICRIN project include publication of hands-on information materials; training for a range of influential local figures, including teachers, medical professionals, community leaders, and the media outlets; and the creation of Internet centres in rural areas to provide local communities with tools to find the information they need.

National University of 'Kyiv-Mohyla Academy'

(www.ukma.kiev.ua)

Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is one of the oldest universities in Eastern Europe. Today the University is the centre of international stature and finds strong support among scientific, educational, political and cultural circles both in Ukraine and abroad.

Oxford University Ukrainian Society

(<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~ukrsoc>)

Oxford University Ukrainian Society was officially created on 26 November 2004 with the aim to provide a locus for Ukrainian students at Oxford and to promote the culture and traditions of Ukraine within Oxford University.

United Nations Volunteers Programme in Ukraine

(<http://ukraine.unv.org>)

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the volunteer arm of the United Nations. UNV has been established in Ukraine in 1993 in an effort to contribute to the international commitment to build up the Government's democratic policies and civic engagement, as well as to tap, together with UNDP, into the potential to work with civil society in promoting volunteering for development.

Agenda 2011

	Date	Purpose	Place
Arrival of participants to Kyiv	21/08/11		Kyiv
Orientation program: Volunteerism, community development process, Ukrainian culture	22-24/08/11	You will learn more about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community development process - Chernobyl accident and radiation safety - Ukrainian culture - basics of Ukrainian language - UNV - Kyiv sightseeing 	Kyiv
Working in the field	25/08 – 30/09/2011	You will work on selected projects in the region with UNDP-partners	Polissia area
Visit to Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station	31/08/11	- Field visit to the ‘Exclusion zone’: museum at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station and Prypyat city which used to have 30 000 inhabitants and now is a “dead city” after the resettlement of 1986	Exclusion zone
Seminar on development & public administration in Ukraine	1/09/11	You will work with experts in the field of conservation and development on your selected projects as well as will be briefed on the partnership scheme between UNDP/Communities and the district administration	Polissia area
Working in the field	2-8/09/11	You will continue to work on selected project in the region with UNDP-partners	Polissia area
Networking seminar / Retreat	9/09/11	Volunteers are expected to make a presentation on their findings. Experts, community leaders and other organisations involved in local development in the area will discuss the findings of volunteers.	Kyiv
Departure	10/09/10		Kyiv

Participants' Testimonials

From 2007

“In 2007, I volunteered to go and work in a community development project in the Chernobyl affected areas through the Oxford Volunteers Scheme – organised by the University of Oxford and the UNDP Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme. With an academic background in History and Politics of Eastern Europe, I thought I knew a few things about Chernobyl – yet the confrontation with reality put a lot of things in perspective.

Working in the communities was a great experience and certainly something I will never forget. Although the conditions were not always the easiest and communication was not always as clear as we had wished, working in the villages was great and the people were really excited about us being here. They were very welcoming and friendly and showed a lot of interest in our every-day lives. The interaction with the young people was great, as was the contact with the community organisation leaders. We managed to get a few discussions going and exchanged ideas about projects: in one village, we developed action plans for the Youth Centre and tried to get support from other stakeholders in the village. In the other village, we focussed more on teaching English and strengthening ties between different community leaders.

Now, half a year later and graduated from Oxford, I find myself in an office of a UN agency in Geneva as programme officer for a project in which Ukraine is one of the focus countries. Although our project it is not directly related to the Chernobyl programme, it is good to know what the situation in the field is like. Having experienced how community development projects initiated from behind a desk are implemented in the field has proven an invaluable asset.

If you are interested in community development, Ukraine or working in a UN context in general, I can absolutely recommend participating in this programme. It is a great experience, and a lot of fun!”

Yuri de Boer (SEH 2007)

“We have never had foreigners come to our village and it was very strange speaking to foreign youth of the same age as us. We also were quite impressed by the concept of volunteering! Why did volunteers come to the Chernobyl territory? Because of this many people turned out for the presentation given by Gregor Lapanovski and Malini Daniels in our youth centre where not only young people were present, but also the older people came to see them. Everyone wanted to see the foreigners that were interested in our village Zamglay.

The ‘clean village’ campaign, which was organised by the volunteers, did not only clean the village stadium, but it also changed the whole perception of the village youth towards community actions. During the campaign the volunteers and villagers worked together and the foreigners did not require any particular circumstances. They showed us that the most important thing is communication and kindness and that they are open to the dialogue.

The coming of the volunteers to our village has become a huge stimulus for all of the members of our organisation to work!”

Yulia Dzhola

Head of the youth organisation “TEMP”, Zamglay village

“The stay of volunteers in our village changed me. I understood that it is very important to learn languages and that the foreigners are same as us. I thought they would be different, but they were very simple and easy to talk to.”

Kolya Savchenko

Member of community “Zhytychi”, Lystvyn village

“The Oxford Volunteers for Chernobyl Scheme” was an eye-opening and truly enabling experience. Working through the UNDP, volunteers are afforded a frontline experiential understanding of post-conflict victimisation that challenges misconceptions about aid-dependency and radiation. With access to health and government officials, I was personally able to design and lead a health-needs assessment that turned into policy recommendations and a new joint CRDP-nonprofit health initiative that I'm leading. Along with other volunteers, I also worked on community development, particularly with youth, whose images are immortalised in a fund-generating photographic exhibition created by other volunteers that insists the viability and vitality of these populations. The hopeful, unexpectant faces remind us that pressing need extends long-beyond commonly-understood time-scale definitions of conflict. I know I will continue to return to aid the recovery.”

Malini Daniels,

MSc Global Health Science

Department of Public Health and Primary Care Crist Church College

Application Form
University of Oxford, NaUKMA, CRDP/UNDP and UNV for
Chornobyl-affected Communities in Ukraine
22 Aug - 10 Sep 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

Surname:

Address:

University / College:

Department and Programme name:

Telephone:

Email/Website:

Date of birth:

Passport #

Passport issued by:

Passport expiry date:

Gender

F / M

Special professional training, skills,
hobbies:

Previous volunteer experience:

Can you speak Russian or Ukrainian
(provide the level of fluency)?

Are there any physical conditions to be taken into consideration in arranging volunteer assignments for you?
Yes / No

If "Yes" please explain:

Do you have any special food
requirement?

Yes / No

If "Yes" please explain:

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Do you suffer from any medical conditions:

Yes / No

If 'Yes' please give information as appropriate

Do you take regular medication:

Yes / No

If 'Yes' please give information as appropriate.

Do you suffer from any allergies:

Yes / No

If 'Yes' please give information as appropriate.

Any additional information, which you feel would be useful for us to know:

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of emergency, contact:

Name:

Relationship:

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

Do you need scholarship to participate in
the programme?

Yes / No

! All Volunteers are responsible for ensuring that they have appropriate Insurance for the period of their stay in Ukraine.

I understand that I am not an employee of the UN International Chornobyl Research and Information Network, and that any duties that I perform are as a volunteer.

(Signature) _____

Please indicate the topic of your interest:

- Prospectives for Community-based or Green Tourism
- Preserving Polissia culture and opportunities for cultural tourism
- Health and Healthy life style
- Regional marketing strategy
- Development of international partnership between local authorities in Ukraine and abroad

- Biodiversity conservation in the region
 - Infrastructure profile – challenges for development;
 - Youth Development & ICT
 - Dissemination of information on the consequences of Chernobyl to local population
 - Other _____
-

For further information contact:

Programme coordinator
Ms. Dzvinka Kachur
Dzvinka.kachur@undp.org.ua

From OUUS side:
Ms. Nadiya Kravets
nadiya.kravets@sant.ox.ac.uk

Information about *the criteria to establish limits of the zones of radioactive contamination*

RISKS ASSESSMENT DUE TO RADIATION EXPOSURE TO POPULATION AND PARTICIPANTS OF POST-ACCIDENT WORK

Zone category and its designation	Criteria to establish limits of the zones
1. Exclusion zone	The area from which the population was evacuated in 1986 (unchanged)
2. Zone of an unconditional (obligatory) resettlement	$\sigma_{Cs} > 555 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ or $\sigma_{Sr} \geq 111 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ or $\sigma_{Pu} \geq 3.7 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, where $D_{\text{eff}}^* > 5 \text{ mSv}\cdot\text{yr}^{-1}$
3. The zone of a guaranteed voluntary resettlement	$185 \leq \sigma_{Cs} \leq 555 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, $5.5 \leq \sigma_{Sr} \leq 111 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, $0.37 \leq \sigma_{Pu} \leq 3.7 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, where $D_{\text{eff}}^* > 1 \text{ mSv}\cdot\text{yr}^{-1}$
4. The zone of an enhanced radioecologic monitoring	$37 \leq \sigma_{Cs} \leq 185 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, $0.74 \leq \sigma_{Sr} \leq 5.5 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, $0.185 \leq \sigma_{Pu} \leq 0.37 \text{ kBq}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, where $D_{\text{eff}}^* > 0.5 \text{ mSv}\cdot\text{yr}^{-1}$

The Scheme has been organised in cooperation between the Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme (CRDP), Oxford University Ukrainian Society and the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The initiative has been actively supported by the British Council in Ukraine and Ukraine International Airlines. Within the very first visit 8 Oxford University volunteers from the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States arrived in Ukraine to stay with youth communities in 5 villages: Kyrdany and Lystvyn in Zhytomyr region's Ovruch district, and Zamglay, Pershotravneve and Lyubech in Ripky district in Chernigiv region.

The volunteers will work at the local health centres and schools. They will contribute to improving public health services through further mobilisation of local community members, offer trainings on how to use Internet and communications technologies to youth centres' visitors in rural areas, and promote public-private partnerships between local communities, state authorities and businesses.

"Working in Chernobyl-affected areas, I am especially eager to work in community engagement and empowerment, all the while learning and hoping to help overcome the perceived limitations of the community. I will be primarily working on health management and welcome the opportunity to study the intersection of health and security to reveal and tackle long term health systems challenges. I hope that the programme will remind the international community that the Chernobyl disaster has not finished ravaging society and that disaster-management cannot be short-sighted", Ms. Malini Daniel, Oxford University student, said sharing her working plans with the Chernobyl affected communities.

The Scheme's first visit started with holding a two-day seminar entitled 'Community development process in Ukraine' which took place at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The seminar was aimed at presenting the CRDP's experience and activities in Chernobyl-affected communities, underlining the importance of international efforts in the overall mitigation of Chernobyl catastrophe consequences .

Welcoming the participants, Ms. Joanna Kazana-Wisniowiecka, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Ukraine, stressed that similar initiatives contributed a lot to raising the volunteers' knowledge about the UNDP's activities, as well as of other UN agencies. Moreover, volunteering could help young people in building their own professional careers by exposing them to the actual development work in the field.

Speaking about UN volunteers' activities, Ms. Ann Merrill, UN Volunteers Programme Officer in Ukraine, shared the information about the activities and experience UN volunteers' are having in Ukraine.

In his presentation, Mr. Yugesh Pradhanang, CRDP Community Development Specialist, shared the Programme's concept and first-hand experience in community mobilisation in Chernobyl affected territories. "Our practical experience in community development will be helpful for volunteers and academics in their further professional development," he added.

Speaking about his reasons to help the Chernobyl affected communities, Mr. Yuri De Boer, an Oxford University student, said: *"I volunteered to go to Chernobyl through the Oxford Volunteers Scheme because it seemed to be an amazing opportunity to do something for the local communities in the affected areas. Having an academic background in East European Studies, Chernobyl has always been a loaded term in history text books – now I get a chance to help out in its aftermath".*

It is planned that during their visit, lasting until 22 August, the Scheme's volunteers will also visit Chernobyl exclusion zone and participate in a round table meeting where they are expected to present their findings and recommendations to further develop communities in Chernobyl affected regions.

The volunteers will act in the CRDP's operating areas, working in fourth zone of radioactive contamination (a zone of strict radiation control), as well as clean territories where resettled people from the first zone (Chernobyl Exclusion Zone) live.

The participants at the seminar included: Ms. Joanna Kazana-Wisniowiecka, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Ukraine, Ms. Oksana Remiga, UNDP Senior Programme Manager, Ms. Ann Merrill, UN Volunteers Programme Officer, Kateryna Maksym, Vice-president on International Cooperation of NaUKMA, Mr. Minamino Daisuke, Second Secretary, and Mr. Yoshio Matsuki, Project Manager, Embassy of Japan in Ukraine; Mr. Viktor Poyarkov, European Centre for Technological Safety, Mr. Yugesh Pradhanang, CRDP Coommunity development specialist, Mr. Sergiy Grytsenko, UNDP Communications

Officer, Ms. Dzvinka Kachur, CRDP Coordinator of the Oxford Volunteers' visit, and Mr. Mykola Movchan, CRDP Knowledge management specialist, UNDP and CRDP staff members, volunteers, journalists and students.

UNDP-led Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme operates in 17 districts in the four regions in Ukraine – Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv and Rivne – which were hit by Chernobyl worst of all.

For more information, please, contact Dzvinka Kachur, UNDP/CRDP, at E-mail: dzvinka.kachur@undp.org.ua or by phone: (+380 44) 280 62 88