



Frequently Asked Questions about the International Team in Colombia

Q: *When is the deadline for submitting applications for the next Colombia International Team training?*

A: Witness for Peace is currently accepting applications for an opening in Colombia. Applications must be received by November 29, 2009 for consideration. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Training is set to begin in February 2010.

Q: *Do I have to be fluent in Spanish?*

A: Yes. One of our most stringent requirements for being invited to join the Witness for Peace International Team is conversational fluency in Spanish. A first step in processing your application is evaluating your Spanish language ability. Spanish evaluations will be conducted by phone in early December. If at the time of Spanish evaluation you are not fluent enough to begin our training, we usually recommend that you consider a Spanish immersion course and re-apply to the program the following year.

Q: *I speak Spanish pretty well and I had a couple of semesters of it in college. Is that enough to be conversationally fluent?*

A: Conversational fluency means that you can converse with fluency in Spanish, that you can communicate your thoughts and ideas without much hesitation and that those you are talking to can understand you. It also means that you can understand and respond to those talking to you. International Team members will also be trained in interpreting, and be asked to interpret for groups visiting Colombia. Being conversational fluent implies that: (a) you can use all the verb tenses: present, past, future, imperfect, subjunctive, conditional, present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect tenses, (b) you have a good working vocabulary.

Q: *If I am considered conversationally fluent, then what happens?*

A: After reviewing your written application, we may invite you for an interview. You will receive further details if you are invited to an interview.

Q: *After my interview, when will I find out if I've been invited to the International Team Training?*

A: You will be notified in December whether or not you are invited to the training which will take place in Colombia in February 2010.

Q: *What happens after I am notified?*

A: The candidate invited to training will be required to attend the training and orientation in Colombia in February 2010. We will provide exact dates of the training upon making an offer to join the International Team.

Q: *Will Witness for Peace pay my airfare to Colombia and costs related to acquiring my visa to work in Colombia?*



A: Unfortunately, WFP cannot pay for new International Team member's airfare to Colombia and while we will pay for most costs associated with processing your visa, we cannot pay for any travel required to apply for a visa. Nevertheless we will pay for your lodging, all meals, and transportation while you are in training.

Q: *What will my housing be?*

A: Witness for Peace provides group housing for each International Team member during the first year of the two-year term. After the first year, Witness for Peace will offer a housing allowance that will permit International Team Members who are seeking alternate living arrangements to live in a setting comparable to Witness for Peace group housing.

Q: *When do I actually go to Colombia?*

A: Your two-year assignment begins on the first day of training in Colombia.

Q: *Is it safe to live and work in Colombia?*

A: While it is true that Colombia is embroiled in a long armed conflict, Witness for Peace takes the security situation very seriously and has a comprehensive security protocol in place to keep members of the International Team safe. For eight years International Team members have lived and worked in Colombia safely. Bogotá, home to the Witness for Peace office, does not confront much of the conflict-related violence found in the rural parts of the country.

Q: *Is the WFP program like some other alternatives to the Peace Corps where you have to raise \$5,000-6,000 to cover your own transport, stipend, and benefits?*

A: No. WFP provides IT members with a monthly stipend of \$225, room & board, health insurance, paid vacation, and \$1,928 for resettlement allowance at the end of your two-year term. We do ask International Team members to participate in a team fund raising effort to raise \$1000 per person, to support the program work of WFP, over the course of their service.

Q: *What do I do if I have more questions?*

A: If you have more questions about the Witness for Peace International Team in Colombia, please contact Jess Hunter-Bowman, Andean Regional Director at [jess \(at\) witnessforpeace.org](mailto:jess@witnessforpeace.org).

