



# HI-CONNECT PROGRAMME

ARE YOU READY TO LINK UP?



# WHAT IS HI-CONNECT ?

Running since 2014, HI-Connect is a work exchange opportunity for staff & volunteers within the Hostelling International network...that's you!

The goal of the programme is to provide personal and professional opportunities such as:

- Experiencing life and work in another country
- Enhancing your skills and confidence
- Engaging with HI's values, sustainable mission and community
- Embracing the culture and environment of the host country
- Creating new connections and friendships
- Developing and improving your language skills
- ...an international mobility work experience unlike any other!

With this programme, HI works towards achieving the following UN's Sustainable Development Goals:



# BENEFITS

Discover what last year's participants had to say about their experience:

## KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

92% performed tasks they had never done before, 83% learnt something new, and agreed that they would be able to share this with their sending organisation upon return. 83% also agreed that they developed their professional skills during their placement.

## ATTITUDES & VALUES

It improved 91% of participants' desire of to keep working for their organisation and 100% of participants' feeling of being part of HI's international network

## CULTURAL AWARENESS

100% participants agreed that they: experienced different cultural practices, norms or values to their own, gained a better understanding of the country they were hosted in. 83% said that they improved their cultural awareness, understanding of their own cultural values & biases and ability to work or cooperate with people from different cultures

## EMPLOYABILITY

It improved 67% of participants' decision-making and problem-solving ability and 50% of participants' overall employability

*My HI-Connect experience was **incredibly enriching and rewarding**. It made me feel connected and engaged with a diverse group of people. I made new friends, each bringing unique perspectives and insights. **I learned a lot**, especially about collaboration and the importance of community. The biggest takeaway for me is **the value of building relationships and the power of collective knowledge**. It was a memorable experience that left me feeling inspired & motivated.*

# HI - WHO ARE WE?

**2.5K+**  
**HOSTELS**

the largest network of youth hostels in the world with hundreds of amazing destinations across the globe...

of commitment. We've been uniting & supporting hostels worldwide, promoting inclusivity\*, sustainability, understanding & learning through international mobility,

**100+**  
**YEARS**

**3.3M**  
**MEMBERS**

our network boasts an astounding 3.3 million members!

We are a non-profit organisation: that means our money is put back into the organisation for continuous improvement and social impact. We work tirelessly to improve and expand our network to new places, working with governments and voluntary agencies to create the same practices and high standards everywhere.

\* check out our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) policy on <https://hihostels.link/DEIB-policy>



# WHY PARTICIPATE IN HI-CONNECT?

Some take part to develop language skills, cultural awareness and open-mindedness, others to learn from best practices in another workplace, and some to put themselves outside of their comfort zone and push their boundaries.

Regardless of what your personal and professional objectives are, you can rely on certain solid elements to guarantee the quality of your experience, to ensure this we provide the following:



Ensuring all details are understood and that expectations are managed by all



Each participant is referred to an on-site buddy to help them or answer any questions they might have



We welcome all feedback so that we can continue to improve and support the programme



A great addition to your CV, this can serve towards your career development.



# WHERE TO?

Discover the places where you could enjoy your HI-Connect experience! Member Associations from the following countries are currently part of the HI Connect programme\*:

Australia  
Brazil  
Canada  
England & Wales  
France  
Germany  
Ireland  
Iceland  
Israel  
Japan  
Portugal  
Qatar  
Scotland  
Spain  
Slovenia  
Switzerland  
Netherlands  
Norway  
USA

# ARE YOU READY?

\*not all destinations can host participants each year, an updated list of destinations is disclosed 1 month before applications are closed.

