

## Education charity Raleigh International is counting on you!

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Raleigh International, the education charity, is looking for talented and enthusiastic accounting professionals to take part in an experience of a lifetime.

The charity - which offers young people from all backgrounds overseas expeditions to exciting and remote locations - relies on a network of support volunteers over the age of 25 to ensure that each expedition runs smoothly and safely. Raleigh International expeditions focus on developing young people's skills and confidence, as well as putting something back into the communities in which the expedition participants live and work.

Currently, Raleigh International is looking for Finance Managers to join support teams in Borneo, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and India. The Finance Manager is one of a team of ten volunteers based at Raleigh's Field Base headquarters in each expedition country and is responsible for setting up and running the expedition's accounts.

Essential skills for the role include experience of Excel and double-entry bookkeeping, and the ability to work with foreign currencies. As with all volunteer managers the Finance Manager must also be willing to turn their hand to any practical task, pay for their flight and basic living expenses, and have a general interest in youth development and supporting young people. In return, Raleigh International offers some truly unique experiences in some of the world's most challenging and remote locations.

Some Finance Managers go on expedition as a sabbatical from their current role with the support of their company and the understanding that the experience will help them to deliver new skills. For others, the chance to volunteer with Raleigh International can be a career and life changing experience.

For Sue Swanepoel, a 50 year-old from Marlow, volunteering with Raleigh International proved to be a turning point, both personally and professionally.

"I was Financial Controller for a manufacturing company; responsible for finance, admin and IT," says Sue. "But my fiancé had sadly died and I was at a complete loss as to what to do with my life. I was looking for something that would give me back my sense of purpose when I found out about Raleigh International. I was thrilled to learn that I could use the skills I was already confident with to help make a difference."

"My time in Namibia as Finance Manager and as a Project Manager working with Bushmen building a cultural camp turned my life around. On return to the UK I realised that I had really enjoyed training the manager of the bushmen camp about how to use his computer, and that this was what I wanted to do! My regained self confidence has put me in extremely good stead for my new role for an accountancy software support company. Raleigh was a turning point for me in so many ways, and has made a huge impact on my career and my life."

For more information about Raleigh International visit [www.raleighinternational.org](http://www.raleighinternational.org) or email [voluneteermanagers@raleigh.org.uk](mailto:voluneteermanagers@raleigh.org.uk).

For hi-res pics and further case study info contact Press Officer Anne Consedine – [anne.consedine@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.consedine@btinternet.com) or call+44 (0)781 804 8438

### **Useful information for interested accountants**

- The Finance Manager is responsible for running the expedition accounts and monitoring expenditure and cash flow against budget. Duties will also include directly managing petty cash and they may also re- forecast development budgets
- Other tasks that the Finance Manager commonly undertakes include monitoring changes in currency exchange, producing financial reports and compiling insurance claims
- A Raleigh International expedition commonly lasts for five or ten weeks; although all volunteer managers are asked to arrive two weeks prior to the start of the expedition to take part in volunteer manager training
- Finance Managers also have the opportunity to visit various project sites and to meet with the young people whose work they are supporting