



INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Background

PCS started in August 2006 with the intention to make circus from Palestinians for Palestine and the world. What started with a first circus workshop for 10 young people resulted 10 years later in a recognized performing arts institution that teaches, creates and presents circus all over the country and travels abroad to raise awareness about the Palestinian potential and creativity. The Palestinian Circus School developed into a wonderful creative initiative of cultural resistance against the occupation. In light of the general destruction of our land, our history, our identity and our resistance, PCS is an organization that protects and develops the Palestinian beauty, values, pride, identity and nation. It offers young Palestinians a powerful voice to engage with their society and with people all over the world. Read more about us here: www.palcircus.ps

Vision

A free Palestine in which Palestinians engage in a dynamic cultural and artistic life that embraces creativity, freedom of expression and diversity as the main pillars for a just and inclusive society.

Mission

By teaching, creating, performing and programming circus arts, the Palestinian Circus School strengthens the creative, social and physical potential of Palestinians, seeking to engage and empower them to become constructive actors in society and raises local and international awareness about the positive Palestinian potential and its different challenges.

International cooperation and volunteers

Since its first days, PCS has worked together with and welcomed many international circus people, individuals and schools. It believes in the strong added value of international and intercultural cooperation and discovery for a whole set of reasons. All former international cooperation has played a major role in the advancement of our

artistic, social and pedagogical work. As Palestinians being many times still very isolated from the world through the many travel restrictions, bringing people to Palestine allows Palestinians to meet and interact with new cultures. We also strongly believe in the mutual exchange of ideas and approaches to enrich each



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other and to offer internationals a taste of the Palestinian culture and its own way of developing social and contemporary circus.

Period

The volunteering program should last minimum 2 weeks and maximum 1 year.

PCS is not responsible for the visa extension costs for all periods under 1 year.

For people who stay a full year, PCS will make a contract to allow application for a 1 year visa and cover the costs for it.

Eligibility to apply for a volunteering position at the PCS:

- Be minimum 18 years old
- Be a circus artist or a circus teacher
- Have experience or a strong interest in working in social circus with vulnerable children/youth
- Be ready to listen and learn about the conditions in which children and youth grow up in Palestine and the role social circus plays here
- Be very receptive to the cultural traditions in the country and be ready to adapt to them where needed and asked by the PCS. PCS developed a child protection policy which all volunteers should abide by. Upon applying we will send you our cultural guidelines.
- Abide by all policies of the Palestinian Circus School. PCS follows the BDS movement
- Be open to share and work with all students from all different backgrounds
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- Have a specific circus technical skill or artistic experience to offer
- Give a minimum of 16 hours of training per week.
- Fill out the application form
- Be ready to have their experiences shared on our website and facebook page (stories, pictures)
- Any former experience with volunteering or working in a social circus is a strong asset

Expenses



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During the volunteer program PCS covers:

- Travel costs (flight ticket and transportation to the circus)
- Accommodation in the PCS guest studio – possibly sharing the studio. It's a room with a small kitchenette and a small bathroom with shower.
- All local transportation to the work related (training / performing) venues
- A monthly per diem of 1000 NIS (= average 286 USD) to cover food
- You are covered by a third party insurance for anything that would happen at the PCS premises.

The volunteers are requested to cover:

- Visa extension costs (for people staying more than 3 months but less than 1 year. (Every 3 months a trip abroad is needed to renew the visa). PCS cannot give guarantees on being allowed in and back into the country)
- A health insurance

We very much stimulate people to apply for **EVS support** ([link](#)) and find a local sending organization through which you can apply for the EVS. But we are of course not

restricted to people from Europe and people between 18 and 30 years old. So people who do not for an EVS, don't hesitate to apply

Decisions on being approved to come volunteer with us will be based on:

- The offer presented
- Period of volunteering
- The needs of the PCS
- The availability of funding
- The availability of the guest studio

How to apply?



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- Please fill out the application form
- Send the application form back to info@palcircus.ps under the subject INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM
- For any additional questions about our work before applying, you can mail us at info@palcircus.ps or call us on 00970 (0)2 281 2000

You can expect an answer from us on your application within 3 weeks.

We look forward reading your applications and welcoming you at the circus!!!!

The wonderful circus family



Our circus home in Birzeit