Embrace an adventure of a lifetime and volunteer your talents and skills through Leave for Change!

Convert your annual vacation into an exciting and meaningful experience. Leave for Change offers staff and faculty the chance to undertake a short-term (3-4 week) volunteer assignment, with a local partner in a developing country. You contribute your skills and experience to a specific development project while learning about international cooperation first-hand.

The University of Guelph was the first university in Canada [1] to support Leave for Change (L4C), an initiative that sees the University annually sponsor up to seven employees to participate in this unique short-term professional volunteer program.

Leave for Change is offered in partnership with Uniterra, a joint initiative of World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI).

Watch the Leave for Change Video

Be moved and inspired!

Hear the stories [2] of University of Guelph faculty and staff who have taken advantage of Leave for
Change. Consider contributing your skills, expertise and experiences to make the world a better place.

Learn More

- About Leave for Change [3]
- Information for Applicants [4]
- Frequently Asked Questions [5]
- Participants [6]
- Leave for Change Blogs [7]
- Leave for Change Retrospective Video [8]

2016 Leave for Change Volunteers Announced

Seven members of the University of Guelph community have been selected to participate in Leave for Change in 2016.

Leave for change provides an opportunity for U of G staff and faculty to demonstrate their commitment to global citizenship and international development by contributing their skills and knowledge during short-term volunteer assignments with organizations in developing countries.

Volunteer assignments and travel dates are being finalized for the following staff and faculty:

- Adriana Ocampo, Laboratory Technician, Laboratory Services
- Daniel Gillis, Assistant Professor & Statistician, School of Computer Science
- Jacquie Bull, Child Care Cook, Child Care & Learning Centre
- Kate Jenkins, Web & Communications Coordinator, College of Business and Economics
- Leanne Piper, Manager, Residence Admissions & Marketing, Student Housing Services
- Raj Patara, Logistics Coordinator, College of Business & Economics
- Veronica Ward, Administrative Assistant, Communications & Public Affairs

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Thinking about Leave for Change?
If you have ever wanted to volunteer overseas, consider applying for Leave for Change!

University of Guelph Leave for Change program participants have the opportunity to embrace an adventure of a lifetime, volunteering their talents and skills with Uniterra partners in developing countries. All you need to contribute is your vacation time. The costs of participating (transportation, accommodation, vaccinations, etc.) are covered through an agreement between the University of Guelph and the Leave for Change Program.

Uniterra maintains a list of Leave for Change positions [9] on their web site. Please click on the map under the heading "Discover our Available Positions" to see sample volunteer assignments and review them.

If you do not see a position that matches your skill set, please consider the skills and knowledge you have (e.g. facilitation & training, additional languages you speak, areas of expertise) and apply anyway! If you are selected for an interview the L4C Program Manager will provide you with additional informational about the possible positions that would match your skills and experience.

Visit the Information for Applicants webpage [4] to learn more about the eligibility criteria.

U of G Wins Global Citizenship Award
The University of Guelph received an inaugural award honouring commitment to global citizenship and international development.

Guelph was named “Partner of the Year” by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI). The award was presented November 2013 during WUSC’s annual International Forum.

The University was recognized for participation in Leave for Change - a program in which staff and faculty volunteer their vacation time working in a developing country - and for other public engagement and global efforts. Read the news release. [10]