

SOME KEY POINTS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

Temporary visitors coming from outside to participate in and learn from Auroville are considered as **“honorary voluntary workers”** and are welcome as long as they resonate with its ideals and values. Volunteers are all expected to learn about Auroville and its Charter and the Mother’s “Dream”.

ALL volunteers must register at Town Hall GRS (C-form for foreigners); then obtain a Guest Aurocard at Financial Service, then have it updated to a Volunteer Aurocard after registration at Savi for their volunteer/internship service.

Registration as volunteers

This happens in the Savi office (Town Hall) by filling a Registration Form acknowledged and signed by their hosting place and guesthouse.

Foreign nationals must go through an admission process (started before arrival) that requires the recommendation of the Auroville Foundation Secretary in order to then obtain an Entry visa.

Time commitment

- Indians: 2 months minimum—6 months (extendable), 25 hours—36 hrs per week
- Foreigners: 9 months minimum—1 year (extendable), 25 hours—36 hrs per week

Volunteers must complete their current commitment before changing to a different activity.

Hosting place

The hosting place who takes the responsibility of volunteer/ intern has to be a registered unit/service/activity in Auroville. An Aurovilian mentor has to be identified to follow-up the volunteers’ activities and progress, and to acknowledge the achievements.

Residence in Auroville

As per the Auroville policy, the residence must be a registered Auroville place (volunteer residence, guesthouse, or unit’s staff quarters). Any change of housing must be reported to Savi.

Refund

After 2 months of continuous Volunteering, those volunteers who are staying in Guest Houses with a minimum monthly rent of from rs 5,000 up to rs 22,500 can ask at Financial Services for a refund of up to 20%, which cannot exceed rs 4,500. Those receiving any In Kind assistance or doing House Sitting are not eligible. All requests for this reimbursement must be made only after 6th of the month until 25th of the month, and for not more than 2 months rent at a time within the current financial year.

Finance

There is no paid work for volunteers, since they are doing a service, whether student, trainee or volunteer. However, an In Kind contribution to support food and lodging expenses may be offered by the hosting unit, provided it does not exceed the amount of a half Auroville Maintenance (12,000). A 900 Rupees Volunteer Contribution is required monthly from all volunteers and interns. Hosting units are encouraged to pay this contribution for their volunteers since they benefit from their assistance.

Visa Formalities for foreign volunteers/interns

All foreign volunteers/interns who come to Auroville, must have an **X2-Entry visa**.

RRO registration for foreigners is mandatory within 14 days of arrival in India and this is facilitated at

Savi.

Foreigners must provide proof of valid Insurance coverage (health, liability and repatriation).

No Tourist, Employment, Business or Student visas are accepted for Volunteering. The Entry Visa does not allow extended/holiday travel within India or spending time outside of Auroville with the exception of one 2 week holiday agreed upon by the hosting unit/activity.

Foreigners on this visa commit to work only for the one unit that sponsors them per the agreement and not to also work with other units, except in their free time. Any change of unit/activity is only possible in certain, extreme situations and with Savi approval. Any volunteer leaving Auroville for more than 2 weeks must advise Savi in advance. Volunteers must advise Savi when they are finished and leaving Auroville, and must also return their Aurocard to Financial Services.

Best regards, Don, for Savi