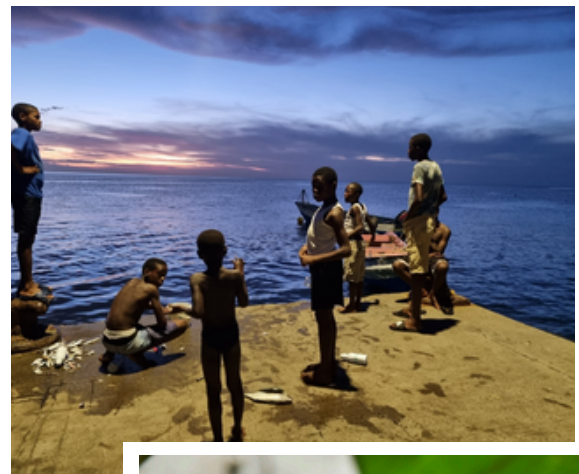
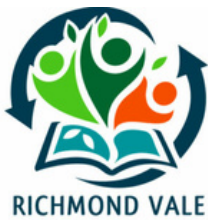


# CLIMATE ACTIVIST PROGRAM

The program starts in **March**,  
**August** and **November**.



<https://richmondvale.org/climate-volunteer-abroad/>

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The skills I obtained through RVA helped me to become qualified and get accepted as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Agriculture Extension Program in Ghana. Those skills include permaculture garden design, immersing myself into a new culture, working with locals, teamwork, and taking a step back from my life to try and understand and accept new surroundings and people. I believe these skills are pertinent for any kind of future job one may apply for.



*Acadia, USA, 22 y old.*



At Richmond Vale Academy, we believe everyone has the power to change the world. During our 6-month climate activist program, volunteers from around the globe come together to counteract climate change and create sustainable living in the Caribbean.

Our Climate Activist Program provides a global framework for understanding climate change and trains participants on how communities can manage and adapt to the challenges of poverty and climate change using proven and emerging solutions for implementation at the local level.

This program will both inspire and challenge you to leave a lasting impact in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Together with your team, you will study in depth about Global Warming and Climate Change, Sustainability and protecting the environment.

## **Program Overview**

**The 6-Month program is a study and action program:**

# FIRST MONTH



## Understanding Climate Change and environmental sustainability

The team immerses in study and research activities to learn about Global Warming and Climate Change, Sustainability and Ecological Farming. We learn and discuss possible solutions for a food, water and energy secure future and how we can better protect the environment.





An experienced team leader will guide you through the whole program. You will use various methods, including lectures, group discussions, individual studies, investigative research, expressive arts, workshops, and practical actions.

You will be part of a team of like-minded people who will work together to acquire the knowledge, mindset, and skills needed to be respectful and resourceful climate ambassadors.



## SECOND MONTH



### Practical Projects and further studies learning from RVA's Campus Climate Center

Learning by doing: Preparing and implementing projects on campus which can include expanding the vegetable and livestock production, increase the nursery capacity and rainwater harvesting while learning more about ecological farming and community mobilization. This experience builds skills that you will then apply in the communities.



# THIRD AND FOURTH MONTHS

## Taking it to the Communities

Here the team carries out activities for a more sustainable future, ranging from teaching in schools, planting trees and supporting families to grow more healthy food. Promote ecological farming or carry out beach, river and community clean up.

During this time, you and your team will immerse yourself into a different culture from your own, building relationships with people and adding a unique perspective to your world. You will develop new skills and gain practical experiences while contributing to a better world.



Working together with the schools essentially means for us to give lessons to the students. That can be about climate change, farming or nutrition, the topics are wide. We pour a lot of time and love into preparing these lessons, understanding the more theoretical parts and being able to explain them – and then finding ways to teach the students in an interesting way.

We prepared countless activities, working often until late in the night. And of course, we sometimes think about if all of this is even worth it – but that question just dissolves into the air when you see the faces of the kids when they see us. Running up to us, hugging us, giving high fives, screaming “you’re backkk!” and “I love youuu!”.

***Kira, Germany, 19 years old***

# FIFTH AND SIXTH MONTHS

## Further Studies, Actions and Telling Your Story

Here the team consolidates their experience and engage in deeper reflections as a team, while also implementing self-designed projects with people in the communities or at the RVA Climate Center. A focus on how to creatively tell the story about how to protect the environment and create a more sustainable future. A final celebration of the experience is held with evaluations and hosting an open day with the people they have worked with during the program.





Together with your team you will reflect on what changes and impacts you made as individuals and as a team. You will create information products containing your message as “Climate ambassadors” maybe videos, posters, photo exhibitions or presentations where you will share your experiences and insights, as well as messages from the communities you have lived and collaborated with.

You will visit schools and organizations and share your experiences and stories with as many people as possible. These last months of the program are also a time of reflection and preparations for the next steps in your life.

What certificates will I receive upon completing the program?

- Training Completion Certificate from Richmond Vale Academy

I have just started a program in Renewable Energy. Richmond Vale gave me a global perspective of many environmental issues, which helped both with my application and the work I'm now doing. It also taught me to work with people from all around the world and to unite over common goals.

***Rebecca, UK, 22 y old.***



# EXAMPLES OF TASKS IN THE COMMUNITY

## TEACHING IN SCHOOLS

With the acknowledgment that change often starts with the younger generations, RVA puts effort into assisting schools in St. Vincent with teaching related to climate change, climate change adaptation, and planet protection, as well as establishing strong and healthy living.

The task related to teaching include making agreements with the schools to teach, collaboration with the teachers, getting closely connected with the students, and bringing new knowledge and energy to the classes using innovative and creative teaching methods and workshops. In some schools, this could also be supporting the implementation of a school garden.



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## TREE PLANTING

Tree planting is one of the actions around the world that mitigates the carbon excess in the atmosphere, and with tree planting campaigns, we can both plant many trees and promote farming methods that do not include cutting down the trees.

The task is about mobilizing community members to plant trees and care for them, while teaching about the importance of such actions. Tree planting can be part of coastal protection, promoting fruit trees, or in its own right. It could typically be a combination of teaching in schools.



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## IMPLEMENTING HOME GARDENS

We have been working with families for many years, spearheading that growing vegetables ecologically and without chemicals is possible, providing healthy food for families and communities.

The task is to support the owners by giving a hand with the beds, re-establishing what has fallen behind, bringing the next level to the gardens with more beds, water systems, nursery space, etc.



## Richmond Vale Academy – Climate Center

At Richmond Vale Academy we foster an international environment with an emphasis on inclusivity and cultural diversity. People come to RVA with different ages, backgrounds, and habits. We live together in a multicultural environment with opportunities to enjoy learning and living together.

Richmond Vale Academy is a center for people to meet and cultivate ideas and serve as an example of sustainable living with off grid solar energy, water harvesting, and an ecological farm to provide fresh produce for the schools' kitchen.

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### Sustainable Energy

RVA's buildings are powered by photo-voltaic solar energy. We showcase both an on grid and off grid system.

On cloudy days we may run out of energy on one of the buildings but will have energy on the other.

We recently installed a generator as a backup system, that can be turned on if batteries run dry.

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### Harvest of Rainwater

Adequate water for farming is an increasing challenge for poor farmers around the world. RVA has rainwater harvesting systems with a water pond and several tanks.





## Ecological Farming

Ecological farming ensures healthy farming and healthy food for today and tomorrow, by protecting soil, water and climate. It promotes biodiversity and does not contaminate the environment with chemical inputs or genetically engineered plant varieties.

Richmond Vale Academy has practiced ecological farming for years and is building on the experiences from permaculture as well as other ecological farming methods.

In 2021, the La Soufriere Volcano erupted and destroyed all the farm structures and fields RVA had established. RVA has started to rebuild the farm and participants coming to the programs will be part of the process and the further development of the community.

Along the program, I immersed more and more into sustainable agriculture. With my experience in the Caribbean, I pursued a PDC in France and was able to achieve a job position with the local government in my hometown, where we promoted organic farming and recovering degraded soil.

***Sebastián, Colombia, 25 y old.***



# ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

The country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is located to the south of the Caribbean Sea and has a population of 111,000 people. SVG is a small island nation with breathtaking landscapes.

The country consists of a main island called St. Vincent and 31 smaller islands and cays whereof 8 are inhabited.



Climate Change is hitting poorer countries the hardest.

The small island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is one of the less economically developed countries in the Caribbean. Several times the islands have been affected by hurricanes and natural disasters.

The most recent disaster, Beryl – a Category 4 Hurricane struck St. Vincent and the Grenadines on 1st of July 2024. The Grenadines, particularly Union Island, Mayreau, and Canouan, were ravaged; 90% of the buildings on Union Island were severely damaged or destroyed and are still in the process of recovery.



# WHAT DO YOU NEED TO JOIN THE PROGRAM?

- ✔ You are at least 18 years old.
- ✔ You can speak, write, and communicate in English.
- ✔ You are ready to leave your home and immerse yourself in an intense learning experience for ten months, 24/7.
- ✔ You are eager to experience a multidisciplinary and collective training program that includes theoretical and practical activities.
- ✔ You are committed to learning about people, culture, values, and traditions and to sharing your knowledge and stories with the public after your travels.
- ✔ You look forward to engaging with the Humana People to People projects in a spirit of cooperation, mutual learning, and respect.
- ✔ You understand that taking drugs or drinking alcohol for the entirety of the program is not accepted.
- ✔ You are ready to volunteer where you are most needed, and where your skills and solidarity will make a valuable contribution.



# FINANCES

The program fee is 3,800 USD. This covers your basic expenses for the 6 months at Richmond Vale Academy which includes a shared room, 3 meals a day, and program expenses.

What is not covered:

- Health insurance during the 6 months in St Vincent
- Personal items such as medication, toiletries and other private expenses
- Return ticket from your home to St Vincent
- Transportation from the airport to and from Richmond Vale Academy

***Limited scholarships are available to help cover tuition for those who qualify!***



During the program, I learned to listen, observe, debate, and practice tolerance. The greatest challenge of all was getting out of ourselves and our egoism to try to do something common with people from completely different points of view, culture, language, etc. I got to know people who just gave the best of themselves at all times!



***Vivian, Uruguay, 43 y old.***

# HOW TO APPLY

- 1** Fill out a short contact form on our website so we can get in touch with you.

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- 2** You will receive more information about the program by email, and an invitation to book a meeting online.

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- 3** You will talk with an enrollment advisor to get a thorough introduction to the program and answer your questions.

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- 4** You will choose the start date that suits you best and your enrollment advisor will inform you of the finances and you will discuss and find solutions as well.

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- 5** After confirming that there are no remaining questions and that you are ready to enroll, you will book a final meeting online or in person to review the enrollment agreement. If you have applied for one of our scholarships, you will receive confirmation of the assignment before scheduling this final meeting.

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- 6** After going through the enrollment agreement, you will sign it and pay the first part of the school fee to reserve your spot on the team.

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- 7** Once you have completed your enrollment, a representative from Richmond Vale Academy will contact you to help you prepare for your trip.



## **Why does the program cost money?**

The program is a mixture between studies and practical actions, always followed up by evaluations with a team leader and other staff. The cooperation within the team as well as with the local population of St Vincent and the Grenadines demands good ethics and a spirit of cooperation, mutual learning, and respect which in many cases must be taught. The costs of the program cover your training at Richmond Vale Academy

## **Are couples, friends and family members able to do the programs together?**

Yes, couples, friends, and family members can do the program together as long as each person complies with the requirements to be eligible.

## **Can I work or go to school while doing the program?**

No, our program is a 24/7 commitment and will require your full attention. It's also important for the success of your team that each student is 100% all-in, and that the team works together at all stages of the program.

## **Why do we ask our participants to agree to our no drugs and no alcohol policy?**

At Richmond Vale Academy you will be a part of a community striving to be an example of international cooperation and development. In such a context, alcohol and drugs get in the way as they divide the community, distract us from our objectives, and put our safety at risk.

## How will I be able to contact my friends and family during the project stage?

You can contact your friends and family through texting, calling, emailing, or using social media. Keep in mind that you may sometimes be in areas with limited internet connection.

## Can I take holidays during the program?

No, but each program includes 5 vacation days, either spent at RVA or exploring St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Timing varies to best fit the program, sometimes 5 days in a row, other times split into two breaks. Teams starting in August and November have vacation around Christmas, while March teams take theirs at a different time. All expenses related to the vacation are personal, including food and transportation. If you choose to stay at RVA, meals are covered.





## Contact info

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RICHMOND VALE  
ACADEMY

Link to program page  
<https://richmondvale.org/climate-volunteer-abroad/>