



Level 1 Beginners at The Lone Buffalo English Development Centre in Phonsavan

2018 Class Supporters Programme

Lone Buffalo is committed to improving opportunities for young people in Laos by providing free, quality English study. The ability to speak English makes a massive difference to young people's futures in Laos – especially as Asia became one trading entity in 2016. As one young student said simply, 'English is my future'. We are proud that many students from Lone Buffalo have gone on to further their studies at Universities in Laos, Vietnam, China and Korea. Our English Development Centre program currently benefits around 200 young people in rural Laos.

We do not charge the students for their English lessons. It is the only free English centre in the province, and one of very few in Laos. We minimise our costs so the majority of funding goes directly to support the centre and related creative and sporting projects, which we see as key to our young people overall development.

How it works

- **It costs \$1500 to fund a class at Lone Buffalo.**
- This enable us to provide a qualified teacher and textbooks for a year.
- Supporting a class guarantees six hours of quality English tuition per week for a class of between 15 to 30 young people.
- You can follow our progress through our website www.lonebuffalo.org and the [Facebook page](#).
- We will send you a photo of your supported class, the classroom representatives and librarians.
- You will receive the monthly teachers report, photo of the Student of the Month and a monthly newsletter updating on our projects' other activities.
- Lone Buffalo will display your logo/name on our supporters wall at our English Development Centre if you wish.
- The Lone Buffalo website features supporters logos/links on every page and the [Supporters page](#)
- We are a UK Registered Charity Number (no. 1169163).

About Lone Buffalo

Our community project is based in Phonsavan, North East Laos. We provide quality, structured English tuition for the town's young people. Students do not pay for their tuition.

The focus at Lone Buffalo is on English. We use English to create a unique environment in which boys and girls can study together, develop personal skills, build self-confidence and participate in our sport and creative skills programmes.

Most of our students are from relatively poor backgrounds but we believe that they should be given the same chance as other young people to develop English skills, benefiting from the career opportunities that are developing as Laos graduates from its 'least developed' status by 2025. We teach five levels of English, from beginner to intermediate, using a combination of trained local teachers and qualified western volunteer teachers. We run teacher-training workshops that are also open to the community's English teachers.

Our project started following the sudden, tragic death of an inspirational local man, Manophet 'Lone Buffalo'. Manophet committed his life to helping others. He worked for the national unexploded ordnance clearance program and as a part time Tour Guide. In the evenings he taught English in a tiny classroom in his home. Everyone who met him was touched by his dedication, generosity, selflessness and stamina. You can find out more here about [Teacher Manophet](#).

How does Lone Buffalo make a difference?

- We are one of very few projects in Laos providing free quality, structured English tuition.
- During 2017 15 Lone Buffalo students completed their final year of State High School. 12 are now studying at Tertiary level in Luang Prabang, Vientiane, or at the Teacher Training College near Phonsavan. A further two students are studying in Vietnam and one student in China.
- 60 students have now 'graduated' from Lone Buffalo between 2014 and 2017 to study at University.

- A total of 137 young people were given the opportunity to join new or existing classes during the 2017 term.
- We continue to develop our local staff, adding two more local teachers to our team and appointing a local Centre Director and Deputy during 2017.
- Lone Buffalo provides a support network for students studying in Vientiane Capital City. We arrange informal meetings with prospective employers as these students approach graduation.
- By providing employment opportunities and training workshops for local teachers, we are able to extend our influence and create opportunities in the wider teaching community.
- Students have free use of our library. We launched a [carry a book to Laos](#) initiative to support our library.
- We provide both corporate and community teaching programmes for employees of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) related organisations.
- We incorporate UXO awareness programs in our curriculum; students have made short films warning of the dangers of UXO.
- Lone Buffalo manage structured football coaching programmes for boys and girls, promoting self-confidence, and encouraging team-building skills.
- We currently have two female student coaches with FIFA D licences, and two male student coaches.
- We encourage creativity through filmmaking and photography. Our students have set up their own [Vimeo Channel](#). We currently have two female movie directors.
- Lone Buffalo films have received awards in international student film making competitions and been screened at the Vientiane International Film Festival.
- Students have free Internet access at our centre. We have set up a small computer room and manage basic computer skills courses for students.
- Students have free use of our small Lone Buffalo gym.



US Ambassador to Laos, Rena Bitter, visits our centre



Local Teacher Philip with his junior Beginners Class



Lone Buffalo students hosted a film makers workshop for the US Embassy American Centre in Vientiane



Books arrive at our library - courtesy of 'Carry A Book to Laos '



Students meeting the Crowne Plaza's Talent Manager as part of our employer introduction initiative



Student film makers on location



Photography workshops



Learning about UXO clearance near Phonsavan



Teacher Training workshops for Lao teachers



FIFA accredited student football coaches



weekend football coaching



Attending the 2018 Vientiane International Film Festival

About Lao PDR



Unexploded ordnance is a way of life in Laos

Laos is a developing country in South East Asia. The UN classifies it as one of the 49 'Least Developed' countries - alongside Angola, Yemen and Haiti.

It is the most heavily bombed place on earth (per capita) – over 1.3 million tonnes of bombs were dropped on Laos as the Vietnam War spread into neighbouring countries. This deadly legacy has a massive impact on development.

About 75% of Lao people are involved in agriculture, providing around 25% of GDP.

80% of Laos is mountainous, and it is home to over 100 different ethnic groups and sub divisions.

In 2016 Laos held the seat of ASEAN and President Obama became the first US President to visit the country. Laos became part of a new pan-Asian trading zone the same year. This offers exciting opportunities for those young people with business and English skills.

Contact Us

For more information about our Class Supporters Programme

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