

# STUDY GUATEMALA

England & Wales · Charity number 1099834

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Trust

**Registered** 2003-10-03

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Green Gates  
Coldwell Street  
Wirksworth  
Matlock

**Phone** 07957330897

**Email** [jane.aitman@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.aitman@btinternet.com)

**Website** [www.studyguatemala.com](http://www.studyguatemala.com)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA CITY.

**Activities:** Study Guatemala provides free secondary education for severely disadvantaged children in Guatemala City by financially supporting an educational centre and also provides community access to a literacy programme at the weekends.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** FOR CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA CITY.
- Guatemala

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£10,311	£17,146	-	-
2024-04-30	£28,578	£20,556	-	-
2023-04-30	£11,705	£10,972	-	-
2022-04-30	£59,386	£59,346	-	-
2021-04-30	£17,677	£16,088	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>JANE PATRICIA AITMAN</b>	Chair	
Dr JESSICA Gallagher		2012-02-16
MRS SUE MELLING		
PETER ROBSON RIDDLE		
Simone Riddle		2014-02-09
Tom Melling		2014-02-09

**STUDY GUATEMALA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1099834

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# Accounts

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# STUDY GUATEMALA



Education Hope Opportunity  
Educación Esperanza Oportunidad

## Annual Report 2023-2024

- Visit by Jane Aitman -
  - An overview to date
  - School developments
  - School Governance
  - Legalities
  - School finances
  - Sadness for the School community
- Annual report from Director Christhi Navidad Estrada
- The Band
- Finance
- Plans for 2024

Jane Aitman, Chair of the Trustees visited the School in January/February 2024

This report is an update of progress in the last 18 months. We are delighted to be able to report to the Trustees, and supporters, a continuing positive note.

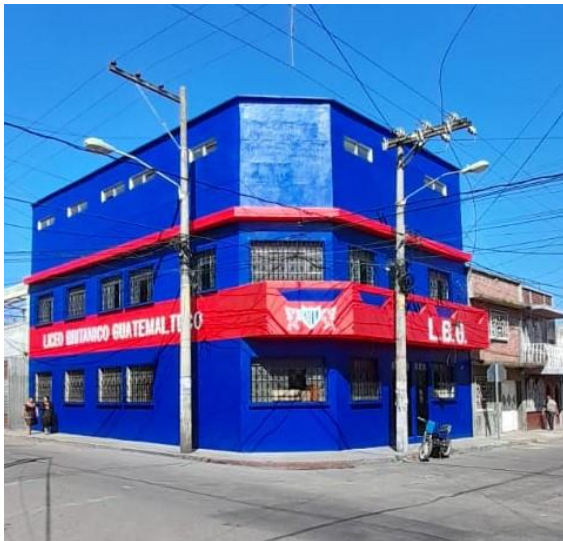
### ***Jane's report.***

After the significant changes following COVID and the changes following Eduardo's death, this was Jane's first visit to Guatemala in four years. She visited the school and the area around the it, La Limonada, where most of the families and children live. She found the area to be far more deprived and precarious than in previous visits; a sharp reminder of the changes in the country over the past years.



- **School developments**

The school itself was in fantastic condition. It had been newly painted at the start of 2023 and 2024 and looked extremely smart.



In January 2024 Study Guatemala UK sent out additional £6500 to the standard three monthly January payment. This had been used to buy new musical instruments and storage cabinets for them; new computers; upgraded and repaired toilet/bathroom facilities; a new cooker and new storage cabinets for the administrative office as well as new doors offering more security. All of these were in situ and had delighted the teachers all round.



### ***Governance of the School***

The succession plan following Eduardo's tragic death was for Christhi to take over as Director. This required her to gain her Masters in Leadership which she did in 2022, and then her **PEM, Profesorado de Enseñanza Media**, (which refers to Pedagogy) which has enabled her to become the legal director. The family decided that the Estrada daughters would also get PEM to support the ongoing governance of El Liceo. The legalities of this process are yet to be finally completed, and still require an official stamp, a letter confirming that they are honourable persons from a lawyer, and police checks. However, these are technicalities and will shortly be written off and given the official stamp.

This will mean that Karen will be able to take over as Legal Director if required; Claudia too is in the process of completing her PEM.

### ***Legalities***

A question outstanding for the Trustees was that of the legal status of school which was registered and legally belonged to Eduardo, as agreed by the Trustees some years ago. Chishthi, with the help of a trusted Lawyer, has been undertaking the legal process to have the ownership of the school transferred

to her. This is well on the way to be being achieved; there will be some taxes owed on the building (something like inheritance tax) however she and the lawyer believe that the tax will be only approx. Q3,000. (£300) It is not clear currently if this is a one off payment or annual. It was also reassuring that the legal fees will be limited to Q9000.

### ***School Finances***

In discussion with Christhi, it became clear that the current costs of running the school are Q31,300 per month.

The school fees for each student are tapered varying from Q50 (£5) a month; Q100 per month or Q200 per month. The students supported on grants from Study Guatemala pay nothing.

These costs are significantly lower than any comparable school. A private school might cost anything from Q650 a month up. Public schools hardly function, with a lack of teaching staff, and suffering huge problems with safety.

***Sadness for the School community: A reminder of the acute challenges faced daily by the whole LBG community.***

Jane arrived in Guatemala to learn that Christhi's stepfather had died three days earlier having been admitted to hospital with a hernia in late December. Whilst in hospital he developed peritonitis. Poor health care led to his very sad death.

Jane also met with Dona Chenni, the wonderful loyal cook, and heard of the tragic death of her niece and her husband and their four children, who on November 23rd, died when a massive land slide in Zone 3 caused their home to be buried underneath the mud and earth. As is commonly the case in Guatemala, fears of the instability of the land was well known by the authorities, but no action was taken to prevent this tragedy.

Three days before Jane left one of the students' fathers was killed in a motor bike accident.

Last year, the violence prevalent in Guatemala took the life of a former student of the school. He was shot and killed while his motorcycle was being stolen.

Visiting Guatemala is always a sharp reminder of daily challenges faced by all.

## **Annual report from Director Christhi Navidad Estrada**

Following the extremely difficult years of Covid, 2023 marked the beginning of all classes in school, leaving virtual learning behind. This was a challenge for teachers and students alike, encountering many emotional and psychological difficulties left following the isolation of Covid

The focus of all those employed in the school had been on helping the most economically disadvantaged students continue their studies. Young people had the desire to pursue education but needed lots of support and encouragement.

**Students sponsored by Study Guatemala.** Out of the 35 students sponsored by Study Guatemala, 8 of them achieved the best grades. Overall, all 35 students have performed academically in an extraordinary manner.

### **Teachers: Highlights, New Teachers, and Departures**

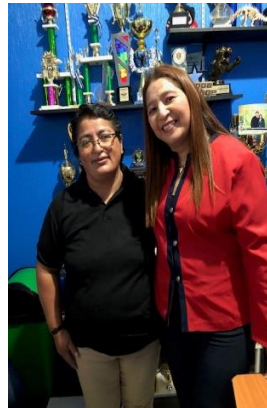
In 2023 three teachers celebrated anniversaries, having worked in Licea Britanica Guatemalteca for many years. Miss Rossemary celebrated 20 years, Miss Helena 15 years, and Miss Jennifer 15 years working at the project. It is reassuring to have staff members who are committed to the institution's vision and clear that the vision of Phil Melling and Eduardo Estrada lives on in spite of their no longer being present.

The Philip Melling Medal was awarded to teacher Rosemary Pessarosy for her 20 years of service with us.

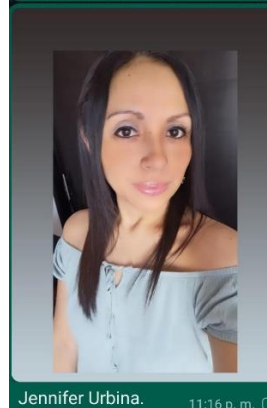
Dona Chenni who has been working for 9 years feeding and nurturing the teachers and students alike. I include her to ensure she is equally valued as all other members of the school family.



Elena



Rosemary and Christhi



Dona Jenni



Dona Chenni and Jane

Another celebration is that of Professor Anibal Tiño who was chosen by the third-grade students as the best teacher of the year, as all the children became interested and inspired by him, and enthusiastic in their learning of Mathematics.



New teachers this year included : Miss Ileana, who teaches computer science, and Miss Silvia, who teaches communication and language. Claudia Estrada is teaching History and Karen Estrada English. They also and serve as substitutes when a teacher is absent for any reason.

### **What has gone well?**

1. The number of students attending in person after Covid is now 100%; great progress! Although the transition was difficult for them, they had good adjustment to in-person classes. However, it is important to mention that many students have emotional and psychological problems such as anxiety and panic attacks, stemming from the pandemic.

## 2. Parental involvement in the school and what they have done.

Throughout the year, various meetings for parents have been held where the school's vision is explained, and parents are informed of their children's academic performance.

At the start of 2024 all parents were invited to join the meeting and together with their children, get involved in kicking off the best new year. Meetings were held to explain the various activities planned for the year and to encourage parents to participate in supporting their children in various events.



## 3. Special Achievements or Awards:

- Verbal commendation from the departmental supervisor of the Ministry of Education for having no complaints regarding the management of Liceo Británico.
- A student from the school won the Municipal Excellence in Academics Award from the Municipality of Guatemala.
- Invitation from the National Palace to pay tribute to the flag of Guatemala.
- One of El Liceo's ex students is working locally as a mechanic. She is one of only 2 female mechanics in the Country - a great achievement for her and the school in its' promotion of education for girls

**How have the exam results been for the students in general?** Overall, the students' results have been good and in spite of challenges following COVID in the end, everyone achieved satisfactory grades.

## **Has there been any particular health issues? Students or teachers?**

In general, there has been a noticeable increase in dengue fever.

In the year 2023, students have mainly experienced mental health issues due to the ongoing pandemic. This is reflected in anxiety crises, negative attitudes stemming from the loss of family members to COVID, and difficulties in socializing.

Physically, students have showed weakness as some fainted during a band rehearsal due to lack of physical activity and poor nutrition. This is associated with the lockdown experienced during the pandemic.

## **Achievements and Events of the Band:**

Over the past year they have been very active even if smaller than before. Prior to the pandemic the band was made up of 80 members; at the time of visiting, there are only 30 band members (all great) but recruitment was underway for 2024. There are two excellent teachers to bring them all on, and one dance teacher for the choreography of Cheer Leaders.

Achievements include

- First place in the national dance corps competition of the band.
- Participation in a national and international television channel where we were congratulated for being one of the best musical bands.
- First place in the band competition at Santa Marta Mixco 2023.
- Exclusive invitation as the featured band in Panajachel.
- Invitation from the Municipality of Guatemala to participate in the family Sunday parade.
- Participation and first-place win in the Don Bosco band competition.

## **Finance**

**What have been the main financial challenges in the last year that are important for the Study Guatemala?**

The budget that we agreed upon each year was sufficient to support the scholarship students. However, we observed that the major challenge would be due to the political crisis unfolding in Guatemala, causing prices to rise. We are

hopeful that in the year 2024, with the entry of the new government, everything will stabilize in our economy.

### **Some brief Plans for 2024**

- The year began with an introduction to the new students through English and computer classes.
- The timetable this year introduces motivational talks every two months as it is crucial to support them psychologically and emotionally.
- Implementation of the English learning app (Duolingo) every two months will provide a more interactive learning experience.

### **New Admissions and outcomes**

Admissions for the year 2024 took place in June, examining 52 students, all of whom passed.

- New admissions: 30 girls 22 boys
- Total students 192
- Total graduates from third grade 2023, 52 students





## **STUDY GUATEMALA ACCOUNTS 1/05/2023-30/04/2024**

Registered Charity No: 1099834

ACCOUNT NUMBERS 01573283 – Treasurers Account

01674438 - Trek Account

### **Treasurers Account**

Start Balance £882                      Finishing Balance £8515

Income from donations, fundraising and Monthly Standing Orders

**£11,192** – this includes all donations made directly into the Treasurers account

**Gift Aid -£16,997**

**Transfer into account from Trek account**

**£0**

**TOTAL INCOME £28,189**

### **OUTGOINGS**

**£20,340** -all payments made direct to Guatemala including bank charges for international payments

**£216** – payment to Just Giving of £18 per month

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### **Trek Account**

Start balance £2425                      Finishing balance £2995

Income from Just giving

**£546**

**Interest £24**

**Transfers to Treasurers account**

**£0**

## **SUMMARY OF TOTAL ACCOUNTS**

**INCOMES**            Treasurer account £28,189

Trek account        £570

**TOTAL**                **£28759**

**OUTGOINGS**        £20,340

£216

**TOTAL**                **£20556**

**Total sent to Guatemala £20556**

**Independent examiners statement**

I have completed my examination of the accounts of Study Guatemala charity.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me caused to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the trust as required by section 130 of the act.

or

2. the accounts do not occur with the records

or

3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the charities (accounts and reports) regulations 2008, other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of the independent examination.

I have no concerns, and I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: name: K. Moore KEVIN JOHN MOORE

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies brackets (if any)

Date FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

**STUDY GUATEMALA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1099834

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# Accounts

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# STUDY GUATEMALA



Education Hope Opportunity  
Educación Esperanza Oportunidad



## *The new school plaque*

*A celebration of two great men with vision and determination –*

*They made El Liceo a reality!*

## *Report to the supporters*

*October 2022*

Our updated news of October 2022, will show the remarkable resilience and commitment of all who work in the school, and all who have the shared vision to ensure its survival and growth in spite of adversity.

2022 has been a challenging yet exciting year. We, the Trustees were keen to gain an overview of how things were progressing, and were delighted that one of our Trustees, Simone Riddle, was able to visit in March this year. Her full report is uploaded onto the Study Guatemala website.

## Summary



Christie, Eduardo Estrada's wife, took over leadership of the school following his death due to Covid in June 2021. Coached and prepared for this eventuality by Eduardo, Christie completed her Masters in Leadership, a requirement of the education department, for her to become the school's director. She then began her six-month course called 'profesionado', to become the legal director.

As she developed her role, she connected with other headteachers in Zone 5, a group of 30-50 senior leadership teachers, and a valuable resource of support for her in her new role.

## Structural Improvements



Since its' original construction the building has been under constant review. The teachers and pupils take a great pride in its outward appearance and structure and maintenance.

The external building has now been repainted, and looks terrific. The problematic leaking roof, has now, after numerous attempts, been fixed, enabling full use again of the third floor.



The boy's toilet facilities have been reconstructed having fallen into desperate disrepair (it seems the boys do not look after their facilities as well as the girls!). New urinals have been installed which in Spanish are called "mingitorios". We the trustees smiled on learning this new word!



## **Health and Wellbeing**

The school was required to create a clinic for students that may get sick and need medical care. This is very well equipped and managed by Christie. The school are also very aware of the mental well-being of the students, most especially following Covid, and continue to offer significant input to children and families in crisis.

## **School numbers**

Since the time of Covid there have been changes in how to help students engage with their education. For many months, all education was virtual, with students who were unable to access their education on line, coming to the school on a Friday to collect course work and leave work for assessing. Students who were struggling academically were given the opportunity to go to the school and get supplementary support on Fridays. Attendance at the school through the autumn is mostly full time, a great improvement for teachers and students alike.

There are now 180 students in the school. The school has for many years established a tapered payment system to enable the maximum access to those children in most need. 145 of these 180 pay, although significantly less than other schools in the area (approximately \$70-80 compared to the \$20 monthly cost at Liceo Britanica)

35 students are on scholarships paid for by Study Guatemala.

Demand for places continues to be high.

## **Activities 2022**

Covid has continued to affect the face-to-face activities of the school for much of 2022. However, the creativity of the school staff has been outstanding, most especially shown in the September exhibition of projects at the school.

A few photos have been attached to this report, to give a flavor of all the work completed both in school and at home.





**Music** A new music teacher has been appointed and is teaching the students to read music- something other teachers haven't done before. Students also have the chance to attend an extra session on Tuesdays to learn this, for a small additional fee. The band usually plays on Saturdays. We look forward to an update on the band for the annual report in January.

**2023 - new entrants** All new students for 2023 have been pre-registered students. The school is once again full, with 35 Scholarships being paid for by the Charity.

**Finances** The financial support we continue to receive from all our supporters, has been fantastic. It has been a hugely difficult year for everyone, so all donations have been even more important.

The annual Open Courtyard and Gardens event in Wirksworth took place this year for the first time since the pandemic. We were thrilled that we were able to donate £1500, which has made an enormous difference to our bank balance.

We would like to thank our trustee Peter Riddle. Not an active user of Facebook, Peter asked this year that his friends and family supported Study Guatemala for his birthday - he was staggered and thrilled that this raised £265! A fantastic unexpected boost.

Please consider this if you do use Facebook - we have found that it can be an unexpected financial bonus.

We have also registered Study Guatemala with #Easyfundraising which means that every time you shop in more than 7000 outlets, a small donation is made to our charity. Please take a look at the link below to see how this works. Every penny counts!!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/study-guatemala>

### **Awards and Celebrations**

Alejandro Castro Ajalip from Third B, has received an award for excellence - she has been noted as the best student of the school, a special award only awarded if the school is invited to participate, and representing the whole Municipality.



### ***Honouring Eduardo Estrada***

The ministry of education, have awarded a special honour to Eduardo for his longstanding service to education in Zone 5. This was a prestigious honour, and attended by Christie, Miss Jennifer (administrator) and the children at a ceremony in Antigua. The certificate is now framed and up in the school's director's office.

### ***Chair of the Trustees comments***

I am enormously proud to have the honour of being the Chair of the Trustees of Study Guatemala. I have watched with awe and admiration as the Estrada family, and the teachers of the school, have worked tirelessly to continue to deliver the vision of Phil Melling and Eduardo.

Covid presented unimaginable challenges, yet the school survives and thrives, and the community of Zone 5 is a far better place for it.

Thank you to all of our supporters; without your financial backing, none of this would be possible.

Jane Aitman

Chair of the Trustees

Study Guatemala

Click on link to donate.



<http://www.justgiving.com/studyguatemala>

**Study Guatemala**

**Charity No: 1099834**

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period 01/05/21 to 30/04/22

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>	<b>Last Years £</b>
A1 Receipt			
Donations and fundraising	£54903	£54903	£17677
Income Just Giving	£813	£813	
Bank interest	£0.22	0	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£55718</b>	<b>£55718</b>	<b>£17677</b>
A3 Payments			
Transfers to Guatemala	£59130	£59130	£16088
Travel and meetings,	£0	£0	
Postage	£0	£0	
Bank charges	£0	£0	
Just Giving fee	£216	£216	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£59346</b>	<b>£59346</b>	<b>£16088</b>
Cash funds last year end	£4406		
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>£779</b>		

B1 Cash funds

**Lloyds £779**

Signed by one trustee on behalf of all trustees

Signature Print name

Trustees Notes on annual accounts

Total income from Just giving £813

Total payments not made directly to Guatemala – £216 for Just giving payment

All money raised and donated paid directly to Study Guatemala.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Name: *Kevin Moore*

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: *18 GREENHILL, WIRKSWORTH, DE4 4EN*

Date *FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup> 2023*