

Project V

The University of Sussex Students' Union
Community Volunteering Scheme
Annual Review 2010-11



UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
STUDENTS' UNION

Sussex
Plus

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Welcome

to the Project V Annual Review 2010-11

Project V, the University of Sussex Students' Union Community Volunteering Scheme - joint funded by the Students' Union and Sussex Plus - has had a very positive and successful academic year. We've increased the number of students who are volunteering and we've worked closely with University departments as well as community organisations to ensure that the contribution of student volunteering is properly acknowledged.

In 2010-11 we also introduced new events, such as the Green Project and Outreach Days for organisations. Link Up, the volunteering scheme for Students' Union sports clubs and societies, as well as groups of students, has gone from strength to strength as well.

As always, we'd like to thank all the students who volunteered through Project V, and all the community organisations that have provided such fantastic volunteering opportunities to the students, and Sussex Plus for its continuous support.

In this review, we will tell you about everything that Project V has been up to in this academic year and celebrate everything that volunteers have achieved.

We hope that you enjoy reading about it and we look forward to enriching the University experience for many more students in the year ahead.

Michaela & Naomi

Publicity Stalls



The following organisations had stalls on campus in 2010-11:

The Children Society
READ international
Groundwork Solent
Fairshare

Project V is committed to inviting organisations on campus to recruit volunteers and raise awareness about their services.

“We ran an on-campus activity stall. This helped raise our profile and make contact with potential new volunteers.

The support we had from Project V staff and volunteers was excellent and above and beyond what we had expected.

Many thanks for your support. We look forward to working with you more during the next academic year.”

Duncan Blinkhorn (Groundwork Solent)



The Green Project

For the first time, Project V has organised regular one off volunteering opportunities in nature conservation during summer vacation time with local organisations.

3 organisations

The National Trust

**East Sussex Countryside
Management Service**

**Moulsecomb Forest Garden
and Wildlife Project**

16 students

4 volunteering opportunities

102 volunteer hours

**“From site visit to us being able
to welcome Project V volunteers -
excellent.”**

Renzo Spano
(Sussex Wildlife Trust)



Placement Visits &

Outreach Days

Project V organises placement visits to make sure that students are safe and supported whilst volunteering. We also organise outreach days for registered organisations to talk about how best we can support volunteer recruitment.

In 2010-11, we visited the following organisations:

The Bridge Community Education Centre

Alzheimers Society

Adventures Unlimited

Ireland Lodge

Groundwork Solent

Grace-Eyre

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Working Together-Congo

The Martlets Hospice

Little Green Pig Writing Project

Nacro

Kemptown Carnival

Brighton and Hove Mediation Service

Cardinal Newman Catholic School

&

we made presentations to students from

International and Study Abroad Office

Sussex Centre for Language Studies

“I hope that Project V volunteers will be a major part of our organisation in the future as they bring enthusiasm and freshness to the organisation.”

Dave Mantle (Working Together- Congo)



Link Up



Link Up, the volunteering scheme for Students' Union sport clubs and societies, as well as other groups of students, responds to the diverse needs of the community, offering **on-going long term projects, one off volunteering opportunities** and **teambuilding days**.

8 Sport Club Link Up projects

- 1 Fencing mini-tournament with 4 local schools
- 2 Men's Rugby teambuilding day with National Trust
- 3 Sports Challenge Day: 78 sport committee members volunteered with the National Trust
- 4 Women's basketball friendly match with Dorothy Stringer High School
- 5 Women's Cricket after school club at Brighton Aldridge Community Academy
- 6 Football after school sessions at Brighton Aldridge Community Academy
- 7 Football Funday to raise funds for the Justin Campaign
- 8 Fencing after school sessions at Brighton Aldridge Community Academy and Dorothy Stringer High School

4 society and student group Link Up projects

- 1 Film students screened regularly films at residential care homes
- 2 One off film screening for older and younger persons
- 3 One off break dance workshop at the Coldean Youth Project
- 4 One off circus workshop at Nacro

1,076^½ volunteer hours

Thank you!

Many Link Up projects were part-funded by Sussex Plus (Career and Employability Centre) and we directed students to think about the skills they learn through volunteering by creating a webfolio (online CV).



Football Vs Homophobia

A football funday organised by the Men's Football Club for the Justin Campaign, involving local LGBT organisations - Allsorts Youth Club, LGBTQ Society, LGBT Switchboard and the Justin Campaign All Stars

“Michaela from Project V and myself also organised a football funday to raise awareness and money for the Justin Campaign, which fights homophobia in football. I've found being involved in these volunteering schemes an extremely rewarding experience.”

Richard Lynch
(University football team captain and Neuroscience Graduate)

Name: Hannah King
Ex-student,
now working at Bandbazi

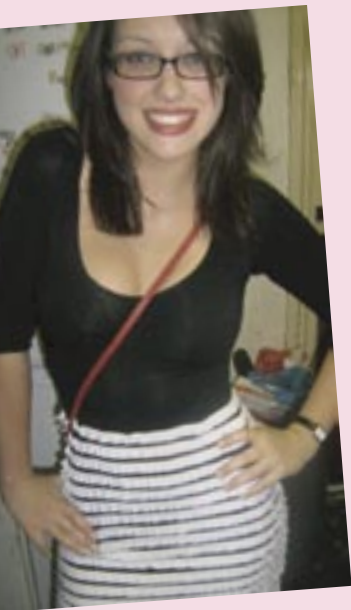
"I started volunteering with BandBazi through Project V in the spring term of my first year at Sussex, where I studied International Relations and Development Studies. Initially I wanted admin experience, but my involvement with the charity soon became much more comprehensive.

I found myself teaching various circus and performance skills, helping out with the technical side of things for shows and many other bits and bobs. I have now been with BandBazi for more than three and a half years - the time has really flown. I am currently working with them in a paid position as an Arts Administrator and Workshop Coordinator; I work in the office a few days a week and then assist with teaching poi and aerial circus at the weekends at the Youth Circus Theatre workshops. When I first started volunteering I didn't expect this to be the job I'd do after graduating - I never thought I would find a job that encapsulates so many of my interests and passions and is great fun to do!"



Case Studies

Care Co-ops Community Care Services



Name: Gina Harwood
Course: Psychology
2010-11

"I am a third year psychology student and any experience I can get is useful to a future career in mental health. I got information from project v about a range of volunteer opportunities relevant to what I wanted to do; the women's drop-in caught my attention right away. It seemed the perfect place to get experience with people suffering from mental health problems, within a group setting where I would be supported by other workers. I have a female family member who suffers with mental health problems and to be there for other women who may not have support seemed appropriate and fulfilling.

The drop-in is a real change from studying and makes me feel like I've achieved something as well as enabling me to focus on my degree. Volunteering fits in with my student life as it gives me an alternative purpose alongside my studying and helps me apply what I learn to real life people and experiences.

Volunteering has given me valuable experience which alongside my degree should put me in good stead for the future and has developed me as a person."

Name: Abigail Stebbing **Course: Media and Cultural Studies** **2010-11**

Screen Archive South East

"Medway on Screen is the first volunteering experience I have done at University of Sussex.

For a media student it was to work with films and oral histories without being in the mainstream 'media' industry. My cataloguing role gave me practise in time management, going through the ritual of listening the archive. It has given me experience in analysing information, as I would have to make sure I included relevant and interesting information from the interviews.

I was really proud to be asked to put a description of my volunteering experience on their website.

I think volunteering is great for many reasons. It is a great way to get involved in the community, both local communities and the business community settings in Brighton. I found it so easy to do through Project V as the volunteering application process is quick."



Student Awards



Each year the Students' Union Awards Night celebrates students' achievements, including students who volunteer in the community through Project V.

The Student Volunteering England Gold Awards are a prestigious mark of individual excellence. They are awarded to a select band of student volunteers each year, who have shown truly outstanding leadership, remarkable dedication or unparalleled achievement in their volunteering. They are the only awards available to highlight and reward students from every University and College in England, and where recipients are nominated by their organisation.

Gold Award Winners

Isobel Barrett
(Hove Stroke Club)

Lulu Awori
(READ International)

The Runners-Up each received a Project V Certificate of Excellence:

Becky Hutchins (Hove Stroke Club),
Daisy Ball (The Children Society Befriending Service),
Fenella Prior (The Children Society Befriending Service),
Louisa Talhi (The Children Society Befriending Service)
and **Abigail Stebbing** (Screen Archive South East).

We also celebrated the Link Up awards, for student groups who have made a difference in the local community.

Richard Lynch received an award for setting up a weekly after school football club with Brighton Aldridge Community Academy.

Ben Carter received an award for the fencing projects established at Dorothy Stringer High School and the Brighton Aldridge Community Academy.

Steven Clark received an award for setting up film screenings in two residential care homes and one lunch club.

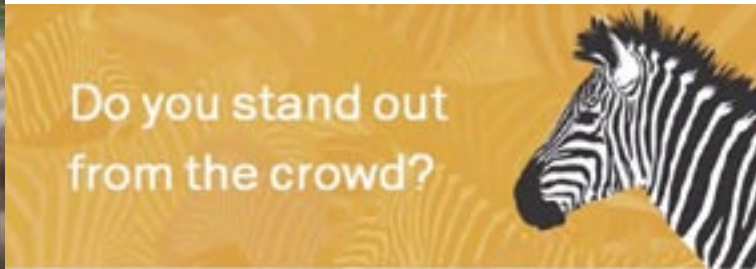
All certificates were presented by Cameron Tait, the Students' Union President.



Working In Partnership

Sussex Plus

Project V would especially like to thank Sussex Plus for the continuous support and we're looking forward to working together in the future.



Do you stand out from the crowd?



Project V is also delighted to work in partnership with:

US
University of Sussex
Careers & Employability Centre

US
University of Sussex
Centre for Community Engagement

University of Brighton
Active Student
Volunteering Service

US
University of Sussex
Sussex Centre for Language Studies

and the University of Sussex
International and Study Abroad Office

Statistics



Project V is committed to ensuring the participation of a broad range of students in volunteering. The following data is collated through our Equal Opportunity Monitoring Form, which we ask all students who register with us to complete.

The main purpose for collecting this data is to help us gain an understanding of who is using our service and to guide us in making the service accessible to a wide range of people.

Gender

In the last academic year Project V pro-actively encouraged male students to get involved in volunteering through special volunteering opportunities, such as the Sports Challenge Day and teambuilding days.

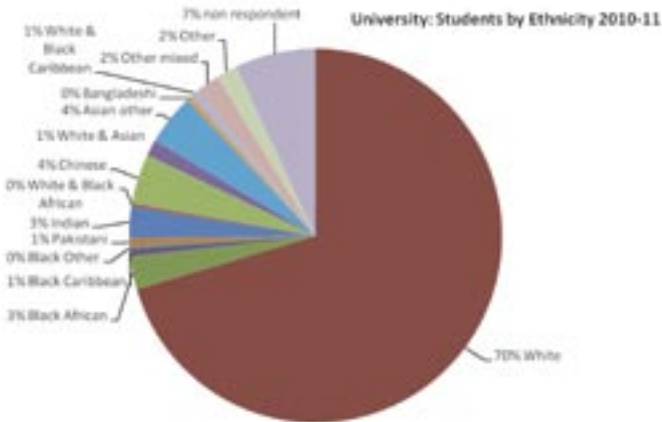
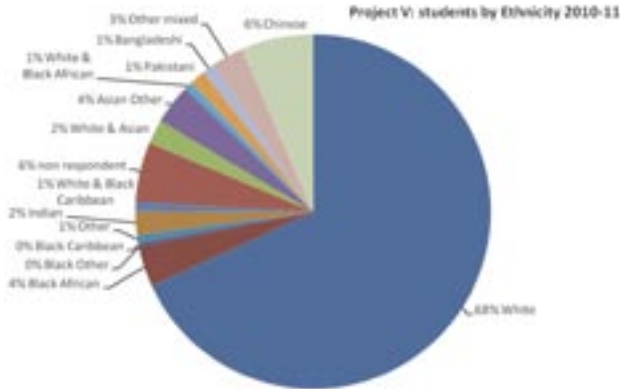
Project V:
female 62%, male 32%

University of Sussex:
female 54%, male 46 %



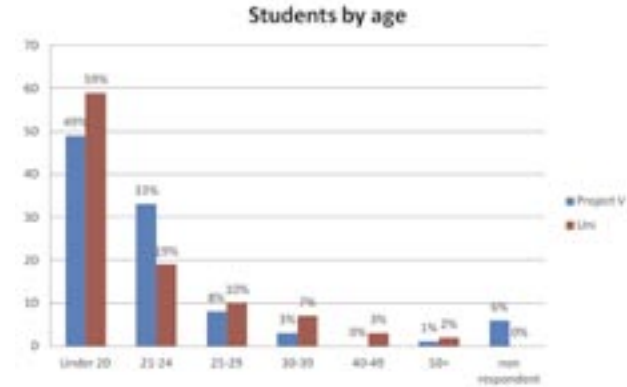
Ethnicity

Project V reflects the University of Sussex Ethnicity statistics with most students being white, followed by Chinese, Black African, Indian and Other Asian.



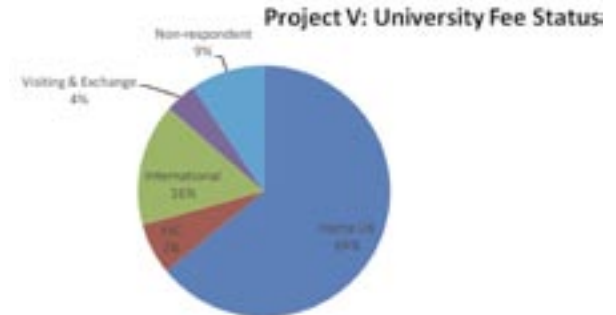
Age

Project V's volunteers are mainly in the age group of under 20 years of age up to 29. It is interesting to see that the age group of 21-24 years (19% of the student population) are very active and represent 33% of Project V's volunteers.



Fee status

Most Project V volunteers (89%) study full time and are Home UK students (64%). 16% are international students, 7% are EEC and 4% are visiting and exchange students.



Other statistics

Project V has a slightly higher percentage of students with disabilities (3%) than the University (2%).

Considerably more undergraduate students take up volunteering through Project V (76%) than postgraduate students (15%). One of the reasons for this is that there are more undergraduate students (73%) at the University of Sussex than postgraduates (27%). In future Project V will try and increase the number of PG students taking part in volunteering.

Project V involves 88% heterosexual students, 1% of lesbian, 1% gay man and 2% of bisexual students. 89% of Project V volunteers don't have dependents, 2% have and 9% didn't respond to this question.

Thank you!

**We would like to thank everybody
who played a part in Project V this year.
From staff to students and from campus to
community, we look forward to working with you
again next year and sharing the fantastic
experiences and achievements of volunteers.**

Project V

The University of Sussex Students' Union
Community Volunteering Scheme

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