

## SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Project V is the Students' Union community volunteering scheme. Our aim is to offer University of Sussex students safe, supported and rewarding volunteering placements that benefit the local community.



We are keen to work with departments across the University of Sussex to encourage students to get involved in volunteering in their local community.

### Benefits for School of English Students:

- Increased employability
- Opportunity to develop new skills
- Opportunity to link degree study with real life experience

### What's on offer

We offer a huge choice of volunteering opportunities that range from conservation, to media to mental health. We have over 200 opportunities in the following areas:

ADMINISTRATION	ADVICE	ARTS / MEDIA
BLACK & ETHNIC MINORITIES	CHILDREN	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CONSERVATION	FUNDRAISING	HEALTH
HIV/AIDS SUPPORT	HOMELESSNESS	I.T.
LGBT SUPPORT GROUPS	LEARNING DISABILITIES	MENTAL HEALTH
SHOPS (CHARITY)	OFFENDERS	OLDER PEOPLE
PHYSICAL / SENSORY DISABILITIES	REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS	SPORTS DEVELOPMENT
SUBSTANCE MISUSE	WOMEN	YOUNG PEOPLE

### Matching and Advice

We provide a matching and advice service to help students find the right volunteering opportunity. Our drop-in is open 10am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday.



## Potential Projects for School of English Students:

### **The Friends Centre**

The Friends Centre is an independent adult education that provides classes in general adult education, skills for life and professional training courses in teacher education. Service users are people who have decided to continue their education for many different reasons: some require basic literacy & numeracy education, some are refugee and asylum seekers who need to learn the language to make a life for themselves in their host country, while others are learning for pleasure and to satisfy their curiosity.

### **Peacehaven Community School**

Peacehaven Community School is a mixed comprehensive mainstream school for students in years 7 to 11. The school is committed to inclusion and has a Special Facility for students with Speech and Language difficulties. Volunteers can get involved by assisting in the classroom or in lunchtime or after-school clubs.

### **B&H Federation of Disabled People**

This project works to promote independence to all people with disabilities. Volunteers work on the project's Accessible City Guide (the Federation's web-based access information guide for visitors and residents to the City) by providing reviews which highlight accessibility issues, on local hotels, restaurants, bars, cafes and tourist attractions.

(Please note that these are examples and we cannot guarantee that projects will be recruiting volunteers all year round but we have many more projects with a variety of client groups and communities across Brighton and Hove.)

### **Student Case Study: L.T volunteered at The Friends Centre**

***Why did you decide to volunteer?*** To use the skills I have to help others within the community. Additionally my interest in helping to teach English stemmed from my desire to teach English in future.

***Tell us about your specific role:*** I help with course organisation and facilitate the learning of English by organising activities and tasks each week. I work alongside the class teacher, assisting with classroom learning. I often create a quiz, PowerPoint presentations, or revision notes on what they should have learnt the previous session. Very occasionally, I run the whole class, if and when the teacher is absent. My involvement helps to bring English out of the textbook and into the real world, aiming to give them confidence and belief.

***What do you get out of volunteering?*** I met many people who are keen to learn English, and need assistance and help with acquiring the intricacies of the English language which come to native speakers naturally. I have gained confidence, knowledge of how to teach English (which is also the medium of communication throughout the class) and satisfaction each time the students learn something new.

***How does volunteering fit in with your student life?*** It requires good time management and organisational skills, but is incredibly rewarding and works well alongside my studies without jeopardising the time spent engaged with my course.

***Why would you recommend volunteering to other students?*** For a wealth of reasons; the flexibility and wealth of volunteering options which aid the wider community in a variety of ways (which it is easy to forget about whilst wrapping up in the world of studying), and the personal, character building, interesting and fun experiences which I would not have experienced without volunteering.

(You can read more student case studies on our web pages.)

## **Working with University Departments**

We are keen to develop our links with university departments so that more of your students can benefit from volunteering and also to explore the possibility of developing mutually beneficial links between community projects and university departments.

a) **Outreach Days:** New for 2010-11, we have instigated 'Outreach Days', the purpose of these being to renew and develop relationships between community organisations, University departments and Project V. Each academic term we will keep 2 days free to visit community organisations and University departments, or for community organisations/ University departments to visit us. The dates of these Outreach Days are posted on our website (under Information for University Departments). Please e-mail Michaela at [m.rossmann@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:m.rossmann@sussex.ac.uk) if you would like us to visit you, or wish to visit us.

b) **Student Talks:** We can provide short and informative talks for your students to advise them about the benefits that volunteering can bring. This includes dispelling some common myths that are held about volunteering and bringing into focus the need for work-relevant skills development.

### **Find out more about us**

You can find out more about us, the services we offer and what we've achieved in the past on our web pages, which include a page for University Departments:

[www.sussexstudent.com/volunteering](http://www.sussexstudent.com/volunteering)

### **Contact Details**

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