

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER STUDENTS' GUILD

GIVE A LITTLE GAIN A LOT

VOLUNTEERING RECOGNITION & ACCREDITATION HANDBOOK

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Thank you. We are absolutely delighted that you have decided to volunteer during your time at Exeter. You won't regret it!

Whilst you'll want to make a real difference when you volunteer, it's not just about what you can do for others. Volunteers get a lot out of the experience too. Good volunteering is rewarding for everyone involved. Of course you will make new friends, have lots of fun, get to know the local community and be part of a great team, but it's right that you should have an eye from the very start on how volunteering can best benefit you.

We hope that this brief guide will help you to make sure that your volunteering goes a long way towards building your CV and shaping your future work and life.

Please talk to us about how you can get your volunteering formally accredited and how best you can boost your CV.

WHAT IS VOLUNTEERING?

The definition of volunteering used in the National Survey of Volunteering is: 'any activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which aims to benefit someone (individuals or groups) other than or in addition to close relatives, or to benefit the environment'.

Volunteering England: 'Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship and fundamental to democracy. It is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community, and can take many forms. It is freely undertaken and not for financial gain'.

HANDY TIPS

GIVE YOUR CV A BOOST

a recent survey by Timebank of some of the UK's leading businesses revealed that 73% of those surveyed said they would employ someone who's volunteered over someone who hasn't. SO – make it work for you on your CV and in job applications and personal statements. Employability and Graduate Development can help you with all things job related, including how volunteering can best be included in your CV. Find out more at: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/employability/index.html>

GETTING INTO WORK

volunteering is a great way to get a reference and fill gaps in your work experience. You can try out different types of volunteering to get a taster and to gain skills and experience in different areas- which can really help you if you're looking for a job. Remember that lots of the volunteering opportunities here at Exeter give you the chance to build skills in all sorts of different areas:

- Leadership
- Events Management
- Supervision of other volunteers
- Publicity & Marketing
- Project Development
- Volunteering law and compliance
- And lots more

GET RECOGNITION FOR YOUR VOLUNTEERING

to really enhance your employability, you should consider getting your volunteering recognised and/or formally accredited. There are lots of different ways to do this.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES:

THE EXETER AWARD

An achievement award for current undergraduate and taught postgraduate students at the University of Exeter. The Award is designed to enhance the employability of University of Exeter graduates by providing official recognition and evidence of extra-curricular activities and achievements, including engagement in volunteering. For more information see: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/exeteraward/index.html>

VINSPIRED AWARDS

The vinspired awards recognise the time that you commit, the skills you develop and the difference you make through your volunteering. This is a nationally recognised accreditation for the volunteering you do, and is open to any volunteer aged 14 – 25. The awards scheme has been designed to boost your CV by showing employers clear and accredited evidence of what you have achieved as a volunteer. See <http://vinspired.com/rewards/awards> In order to apply for a vinspired award you simply have to keep a record of your volunteering online:

- V10 gained from completing 10 hours of volunteering in your local community
- V50 gained from completing 50 hours of volunteering in your local community
- V100 gained from completing 100 hours of volunteering in your local community

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This award is open to young people aged between 14 and 24. You can do programmes at three levels, which when completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. You achieve your Award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections (five if you're going for Gold), and volunteering is a key element of this. The other sections are - Physical, Skills, Expedition and for Gold, a Residential. See: <http://www.dofe.org>

VOLUNTEERING ENGLAND MATT SPENCER AWARD

Matt Spencer, who sadly passed away on 26 September 2001 aged just 23 years, epitomised student volunteering. He cared deeply about people, the exploitation and oppression they face, and passionately challenged it with his lateral approach.

Matt became involved with Student Community Action at Queen Mary and Westfield College (now Queen Mary, University of London) where he became the SCA officer. The following year he was elected Vice President Education and Representation at the Students' Union and joined the Trustee Board of Student Volunteering UK as a student director.

Matt's family have set up a fund in his memory to recognise the work of outstanding student volunteers. The fund intends to award one outstanding student each academic year with an award in the form of an inscribed tankard, a cheque for £100 and a bottle of champagne. See: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk>



VOLUNTEERING ENGLAND STUDENT VOLUNTEERING GOLD AWARDS

The Student Volunteering England Gold Awards are a mark of excellence in volunteering and are awarded by Volunteering England, England's Volunteer Development Agency. The awards are given to student volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to volunteering in one of three categories which are;

Leadership - Students who excel in leadership, may have run their own volunteering project or taken a lead at a volunteering event with responsibility for guiding other students as well as being a team player and volunteering themselves

Dedication - Students who are the most committed and hard working of volunteers, who may not be at the forefront of running projects but can be relied on continually. Being an inspiration to volunteers, these students show loyalty and passion towards their volunteering

Achievement - Students who have achieved in a particular project or on a more personal level
See: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk>

HIGHER EDUCATION VOLUNTEERING AWARD

The Higher Education Volunteering Awards reward and give national recognition to exemplary volunteering activities at Universities across the country. The awards work in arrears: nominations for the previous academic year are made in October and the awards ceremony takes place in December. See: http://www.studentvol.org.uk/index_news_he_a_awards.html

SPECIAL CONSTABLE & POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Some students might consider volunteering within the police force. Police support volunteers are used to:

- Increase the capacity of the force
- Release police officers and police staff to concentrate on core duties
- Encourage community participation
- Improve interaction between the police and local community
- Increase diversity
- Enable the community to have a better understanding of the work of the police

See: <http://www.npia.police.uk/psv.htm>

For students who do volunteer in this way, there is a special volunteer awards scheme which recognises commitment and excellence, and has to be supported by a senior police officer.



YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARDS

The Young Achievers Awards are for 16-25 year olds who have accomplished something outstanding. The Young Achievers believe that the most successful way to inspire young volunteers, campaigners and social entrepreneurs is through action based volunteering, which is led by young people and provides inspiration to others. Young Achievers wants to recognise and celebrate over 50 inspirational volunteers in total, and all will receive some support and the winners and runners up will win cash prizes for personal and project development, an RSA fellowship and prizes. These are awarded on an annual basis in October.



“SO – MAKE SURE
THAT AS WELL AS
GIVING, YOU ARE
ALSO GETTING. WE
WISH YOU HAPPY
VOLUNTEERING!”

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Voice

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communityaction

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