



# Tips for working with student volunteers

These guidelines are for any charity or organisation who would like to work with student volunteers from the University of Bath.

Students gain a lot from volunteering including confidence, new skills, and amazing memories. Student volunteers have much to offer, including lots of enthusiasm, but often need to balance volunteering with full time studies and the adjustment of being away from home and in a new city.

We hope these tips will help you get the most positive experience when working with student volunteers.

## What motivates students?

- Contributing to a charity or cause they have a personal connection with or have previous experience doing.
- Wellbeing benefits – giving back to and connecting with the local community (many students want to do this!). Studies show that giving your time through volunteering is proven to increase feelings of happiness and reduce anxiety.
- Gaining CV boosting skills for employability

## Top Tips!

- Remember students are doing full time studies. The final year will be particularly busy. Their exams are in Jan and May.
- Good times of the year for students – Oct, Nov, Feb & March.
- Students have long holidays and usually leave Bath over Christmas, Easter and Summer. International or postgrad students may remain in Bath.
- Knowing this, and being flexible where you can will help enable students to work with you.





## Communication

Establish a good line of communication, share with them how they will be making a difference and how pleased you are to have their help and support.

Ensure you're happy that students can commit their time, especially if spending money on e.g. DBS checks.

## Support

Many students don't have cars and can be low on funds so contributions to bus/mileage fares or lunches are very valued by students

## Get started!

The University of Bath shares charity volunteering opportunities to students here [www.thesubath.com/volunteer/browse/](http://www.thesubath.com/volunteer/browse/)

Charities register on the page which creates a profile. From there you can post volunteering opportunities whenever you have them.

For further advice or information, email us at [volunteers@bath.ac.uk](mailto:volunteers@bath.ac.uk)

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