

Volunteering and International students

The information found at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/visa-advice/working-in-the-uk/working-in-the-uk-during-your-studies/index.html> is guidance for International Students to ensure they are not volunteering illegally.

As a partner organisation we would require that you are following these guidelines to ensure any students on a Tier 4 visa are volunteering legally.

NB – Students on a Tier 4 visa will be students who are not in the EEA or Switzerland. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa> for guidance

Useful info for organisations:

Volunteering and the Law is a useful document that outlines what organisations should be doing to ensure they are not entering contractual obligations with their volunteers. Please go to:

<http://volunteernow.co.uk/fs/doc/publications/volunteering-and-the-law-information-sheet-nl.pdf>

Another useful guide that highlights clearly the differences between voluntary work and volunteering:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605397/nmw-nlw-calculating-minimum-wage-guidance.pdf

As a summary:

UK Border Agency's definition of 'Voluntary Work' and 'Volunteering'

Voluntary workers:

- often have a contract with their employer (this means the employer must provide the work and the voluntary worker must attend at particular times and carry out specific tasks)
- voluntary workers are also usually remunerated in kind, for eg offered free gifts, accommodation)

Volunteers:

- do not have a contract of employment
- must not take the place of an employee

- must not receive payment in kind but reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses (for eg lunch) is allowed
- usually help a charity or voluntary or public sector organisation

Please contact us if you have any queries.