



AGM 2012

National support available for student volunteering

The 2000s were a period of remarkable growth in student volunteering, with substantial resources committed to supporting new initiatives and creating staff posts. With funding from HEFCE largely disappearing, as well as reduced prospects for fundraising during the recession, there have been significant changes in the last two years which have impacted local and national student volunteering provision.

We are encouraged by the fact that workers can still access national support from a wide range of organisations in order to be more effective at a local level. This paper compiles information about all national support available in the student volunteering sector going forward, as well as contact details for each of the organisations involved. As always, WiSCV will continue to provide the workers with a network to share information and therefore improve local student volunteering centres.

WiSCV

The WiSCV annual plan for 2012/13 will be put together by the new committee over the summer. Our membership survey has identified the following priorities for the next national committee:

- More resources for the website – we will support the Impact student committee in producing these in the future, leveraging the views and expertise of both the students and the workers.
- More proactive communications through the mailbase in the lead up and during student volunteering week in order to share best practice.
- Continue to represent workers at a national level and distribute information across the network.
- Continue to support the Impact committee as our student counterpart organisation
- Continue to liaise with organisations which support student volunteering at national level including VE, NUS, Student Hubs and NCCPE.

As every year, a full annual plan for WiSCV will be distributed through the mailbase in September.

Current WiSCV Chair: sara.fernandez@studenthubs.org

Current WiSCV Vice-Chair: Fiona Addison f.addison@UCL.AC.UK

Impact

Now in its third year, the Impact Student Committee brings together student volunteers across the UK to ensure that the student volunteering movement is student-led.

Its main activities for 2012/13 are as follows:

Enhance **communication** between student volunteers – both through the website, social media, a regular mailing list and the annual conference

Conduct **research** on the current state of student volunteering, to inform internal and external groups with a vested interest in the sector.

Provide **resources** for current and future volunteers, leaders and staff to enhance the skills and knowledge that are needed in their environments.

Coordinate the annual **conference** and regional and national **events** to allow the sector to share ideas, speak to external stakeholders and demonstrate the value of student community engagement. This includes taking a leading role in Student Volunteering Week.

Volunteering England

While Volunteering England doesn't have a dedicated student volunteering team at present, it continues to offer great benefits for its members. The greatest one is the opportunity of being involved in the development of volunteering policy and practice. Along with our other 2,000 members, you will have the opportunity to comment on consultations, promote your work with volunteers, develop new policies and hone good practice in volunteer involvement.

Information Service

The Information Service is a key resource for our members who are working with, or managing volunteers. It includes full access to all resources in the Good Practice Bank, and a telephone and email helpline

You can call or email our expert information team five days a week with your queries on good practice in volunteer management, from writing volunteer policies to dealing with problems and complaints.

Member events

In addition to the host of other exciting conferences and events run by Volunteering England every year there will also be 4 specialist events devised in consultation with and specifically for our members.

Fortnightly newsletter

Sent out fortnightly, our newsletter allows you to keep your finger on the pulse. Learn what's new in the world of volunteering and receive all the latest news, events and information.

Free advice and discounts with BJK insurance

Free insurance advice and information service

Free non-obligatory quotations for all of your insurance needs

Up to 10% discount on new insurance policies taken up with BJK

Discount on volunteer management software with Volunteer

Volunteering England has teamed up with Volunteer from Canada to help provide you with a great volunteer management database. We have arranged for a special discount for Volunteering England members.

More discounts

25% off events

20% off publications

10% off Volunteers Week merchandise

10% off Investing in Volunteers*
5% off educational resources through Tribal

Policy and membership questions: dan.summers@volunteering.org.uk

NUS

***Please note NUS has not finalised their plans for next year and are still seeking input. You can email your feedback to Fiona Ellison at Fiona.ellison@nus.org.uk*

As part of our consultation to date we have identified a number of areas to consider as part of our programme of delivery:

- Communication - Ensuring strong communication between students' union and universities in provision of volunteering opportunities for students
- Training & networking – Creating opportunities linked into existing structures e.g. zones conference, SU2012, as well as considering additional events for networking and training aimed at staff and officers
- Advocacy – linking into existing policy functions of Volunteering England and others
- Funding – considering how NUS can financially support initiatives such as WISCV, Impact as well as the creation of funding pots to support student volunteering initiatives
- Best practice – creating opportunities for sharing of best practice, as well as considering how student volunteering providers can access best practice guidance through VE's membership service.
- Profile raising – both to external and internal audiences, helping student volunteering centres showcase their value and impact
- CSR strategies – exploring how students' union and universities could be developing their own strategies to ensure that their staff are giving time as volunteering

Student Hubs

Student Hubs is a national charity working to transform student engagement in social action. It works locally at seven different universities but it also offers a range of national programmes open to all students across the UK.

The Student Hubs national programmes cover the following areas of work:

- Community and Social Action – we support the **Impact national conference** and the student committee that organises it. Our focus is on connecting UK student volunteers and strengthening the movement by offering advice, resources and the infrastructure to learn and be inspired by one another. The main activity this year will be the third annual Impact Conference, don't miss it – **10th-11th November**.
- Environment and Sustainability - we host Climate Conferences across 5 different Universities, focusing on learning about climate change and sharing best practice around environmental projects, such as waste audits, carbon audits, community gardens or bike recycling schemes. It's a great opportunity for students to learn from other projects and feel inspired to take action in their universities.
- Social entrepreneurship - we run the UK's largest student social enterprise conference, Emerge on the 27th and 28th of October – increasingly links are being made between charities, volunteering and social enterprise, so we would love to have a strong contingent of volunteers there to participate. We also have tools and resources on hand to help student social entrepreneurs to establish and run their own enterprises and run an incubator for student social ventures – the Emerge Venture Lab.
- International Development and International Volunteering (Impact International) - **Impact International** is the equivalent of the Impact committee except for students interested in overseas volunteering. The programme of activities includes 'know before you go' training for students volunteering abroad (including safeguarding children in an international context, monitoring and evaluation of on the ground projects, safety and insurance, etc); higher level training for student

coordinators and trustees (including training on sustainability and effectiveness to ensure projects are actually making a positive impact abroad); and an information network for student-led projects (as often different universities work on the ground alongside each other or on very similar projects).

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NCCPE

The NCCPE was funded by v between 2009-2011 to provide compelling evidence of the impact of volunteering on students, communities and institutions. The full evaluation of this project, including links to case studies, resources and published research is available from <http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/about/vinspired-students>. The NCCPE has now launched a Manifesto for Public Engagement, which invites signatories to work with their students to develop a student volunteering pledge that describes their commitment to and support for volunteering; and to draw on the NCCPE and vinspired student resources to involve students and staff actively in the development of their engagement work. For more information follow visit www.publicengagement.ac.uk

The most relevant event for the WiSCV calendar is **Engage 2012**. WiSCV members can both attend or get involved in facilitating some sessions. The theme for the conference this year is responding to change.

The 21st century University must adapt to face the challenges posed by the need to more rigorously demonstrate the impact of research; increasing demands for a 'relevant' curriculum that prepares students for life beyond university; and the need to mobilise knowledge in addressing challenges faced by society. Engagement is a key approach that enables the sector to learn from others and to develop strategies that are sensitive to these wider societal shifts and expectations. For more information: <http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/engage-2012-responding-change>

We would like to invite applications from individuals (or teams) who are keen to convene sessions for our conference. A session convenor is responsible for

- determining how best to run a session focussed on a specific theme
- bringing together a small group of contributors to the session from across the UK
- working in partnership with the NCCPE to create an engaging format suitable to the target audience
- facilitating the session at the conference

Session convenors would have experience of the session theme, and be keen to develop an innovative way of engaging delegates in discussions relevant to that theme. We are currently looking for up to 4 session convenors, committed to developing a theme relevant to the conference content.

We are also planning to host a showcase session – where people can share their examples of engagement activity. This session would provide delegates with an opportunity to explore a variety of projects in an informal way on a drop in basis. Contributions may take a variety of forms – from posters; interactive exhibits; films; round table discussions etc.

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