Quick Guide: Student-Led Projects

What is a student-led project?

A student led project is your chance to make a difference to your community, by meeting a local need or supporting a good cause or campaign. Your own passion and interest, as well as that of any other volunteers involved are a key part of student led projects.

Projects may be one-off events, or happen weekly, monthly…there are lots of possibilities. Some recent examples include an after school club for pupils with English as an additional language, a regular conservation group at a local heritage site, supporting a computer club for older people, organising a fashion show to raise money for Oxfam…

What does a project leader do?

This role is challenging and rewarding. Project leaders are responsible for all the stages in running a volunteering project during an academic year, though they may not necessarily come up with the initial idea. You may be one of a few leaders who coordinate a project. You can expect to take on:

- Setting up, researching, planning, implementing and evaluating a project
- Engaging, motivating and supervising other volunteers
- Liaising with UWE Volunteering and partner organisations or clients

"I chose to become a Silver Surfers Project leader to enhance my CV, share my knowledge and help others. I felt that I was really able to teach others the benefit of computers and the internet. I found it an excellent experience and would happily do it again."
Chris, Forensic Computing Student

What makes a good project leader?

First of all, UWE Volunteering is here to support you and help you to make your project a success. You will develop your skills and learn a lot along the way. Qualities that are useful include: dedication and enthusiasm, good time-management and organisational skills, good communication, friendly and approachable, highly motivated, able to work with a wide range of people, team worker!

This is not an exhaustive list and you may have a certain knowledge or technical skill that is essential to your project idea.

Criteria for a project

As well as meeting a community need or supporting a good cause, a project should be meaningful, manageable, involve a number of volunteers, be flexible and either regular and sustainable or one-off.

Project Leaders on the Art of Numbers project, encouraging school pupils to design a maths themed playground mural.

How much time should I expect to commit?

Depending on the nature of your project, the amount of time it takes up can vary a lot! For a regular project, most leaders would prepare or plan for a few hours a week, with any project sessions on top of that. Projects are flexible though, so you can plan them around your other commitments to help manage your time.

Why get involved?

You'll get experience in **leadership** and **project management**, and gain a whole range of **transferable skills**…and the opportunity to really **make a difference** to the local community.

Volunteering makes your CV stand out and **makes you more employable**. Just think how much you will have to talk about in an interview with a potential employer, and how much **real work experience** you will have already gained from running your own project!

How we will support you

UWE Volunteering is here to take you from an initial idea to a feasible project plan. We will support you to recruit other volunteers to help make your project a success, and help keep you on track as your project progresses. You can expect help with planning and organisation and making contact with community groups, charities and organisations. We also have funding available to cover reasonable project costs.

Next Steps

Submit an initial idea form → **Come in to discuss your idea** → **Develop your project plan and funding request**

Turn your idea into action! ← **Get your project leader handbook**

Visit us in the Community Hub in the Octagon on Frenchay Campus, Monday-Friday 09:30-16:30
volunteering@uwe.ac.uk | 0117 328 2334 | www.uwe.ac.uk/volunteer | facebook.com/uwevolunteering