

LSE Volunteers

Celebrating volunteering and fundraising at LSE in 2013/14



Volunteer Centre



Introduction

We are delighted to be celebrating volunteering and fundraising at LSE. There is a strong tradition of social awareness and engaging with the wider community at LSE and when students volunteer and fundraise they demonstrate this.

The 2013-14 academic year has seen thousands of hours donated and many thousands of pounds raised for UK registered charities, working in the UK and overseas. In this brochure we have collected some case studies of the fantastic work that LSE students do and the impact they have made in our communities.

We hope you enjoy reading about it as much as we enjoyed making it happen.



David Coles
LSE Volunteer Coordinator



Nona Buckley-Irvine
RAG President 2013/14

LSE Volunteer Pledge

The London School of Economics and Political Science pledges to encourage volunteering amongst its students. The Volunteer Centre at LSE Careers and Student Union will continue to work in partnership to further develop student volunteering as an integral part of student life.

Volunteering offers benefits to our students and the local community in line with the school's values and commitments. By volunteering students can engage with the wider world, support the environment and gain new skills to compete in a rapidly changing job market.

Message from the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson

It is wonderful to read the stories of so many LSE students doing great things for their city and the local communities in London. I am a firm believer that the team really is greater than the sum of the parts and that by acting together we can achieve even more impact, which is why I am delighted that my volunteering programme, Team London, will be working with LSE this year to increase the opportunities available to students and to continue to raise the profile of the amazing work that you do. Volunteering isn't simply a one way street; 73 per cent of employers regard volunteering experience favourably on a CV. It really is a brilliant way to gain the skills and experiences needed to prove yourself in the ever-more competitive workplace. So, keep up the good work and why not get your friends involved too?



MAYOR OF LONDON

Volunteering

LSE Volunteer Centre

The LSE Volunteer Centre is at the forefront on LSE's engagement with the charity sector and aims to be the hub of volunteering on campus. Each year we help hundreds of students donate thousands of hours to good causes locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2013-14 we have seen a huge amount of interest from students who want to get involved in volunteering. LSE students have completed a range of roles that include mentoring, campaigning, fundraising, marketing, research and many others! We have organised several one-off events including hosting London's Good Deed Day with the NUS and Good Gym and a bag packing session at a local Sainsbury's in support of St John's Hospice.

We have also completed a poll of over 2,000 LSE students and found that 42 per cent of them had completed voluntary work since they joined the School. Taken across LSE as a whole that amounts to almost 4,000 students; an army of volunteers!

We are particularly pleased with our continued relationship with LSE SU RAG and our brilliant joint fundraising and volunteering night in conjunction with The Funding Network during Student Volunteering Week.

Most importantly we've had fantastic feedback from the organisations we work with about their relationship with the Volunteer Centre and the quality of work completed by LSE students, something the School should be very proud of.

The 2013-14 academic year has been incredibly exciting and we are really looking forward to building on these successes next year.





Ellie White

**MSc in Empires, Colonialism
and Globalisation**

**Summer school leader at KickStart
Ghana and an LSE Student
Volunteering Ambassador**

"I spent my undergraduate years volunteering and fundraising from the comfort of my university bubble, and, at the end of last year when considering New Years' resolutions for 2013, decided it was high time that I actually got up and did something, something hands-on, and something completely outside the norm of my day-to-day life.

I bashed out an application to volunteer with KickStart Ghana, and found myself six months later, with some lesson planning training and the entire contents of a pharmacy in my back pack, boarding a plane to Accra. I spent four weeks working with the charity, running lessons at a summer school on a wide variety of topics, including creating a newspaper article describing the mysterious death of a fictional but much loved goat, teaching traditional British camp-fire songs, and getting to grips with the basics of Japanese which our pupils were embarrassingly good at.

We aimed to provide the children with experience in life skills, such as: presentation, teamwork and creativity. It was clear to see the thrill the children got from the lessons we prepared for them, which were very different from their traditional classes, and it was fantastic to work alongside the Ghanaian teachers who had given their time to work on the charity's project.

What struck me about my experience was the amazing things that can be done with enthusiasm, commitment and collaboration; KickStart Ghana particularly exemplifies this, undertaking projects which are specifically requested and desired by the local community, and being entirely manned by volunteers. Luckily for volunteers like me, this approach



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Ellie White, Summer school leader

means you get to participate in a project that helps children to grow academically, as well as in confidence and creativity, whilst having an amazing time yourself, and all in a country filled with beautiful scenery, wonderful people, and some questionable local delicacies. I couldn't recommend the experience highly enough!"



Joe Nevin
BSc in Economics
Volunteer intern at Marie Curie Cancer Care

Joe has volunteered with several organisations during his time at LSE but particularly enjoyed his time with Marie Curie Cancer Care in their corporate team.

"As I finished my second year and looked for opportunities to volunteer, I knew I wanted to utilise the skills I had learnt so far at LSE. After looking through several different summer roles and volunteer internships, I eventually decided to volunteer with Marie Curie Cancer Care in their corporate team.

Marie Curie work in partnership with the NHS to provide dedicated care to terminally ill patients in the UK & Ireland. They provide over 1.3 million hours of nursing and palliative care every year and run nine hospices, reaching over 4,000 people. This was a cause I had experienced firsthand when Marie Curie nurses provided care for my mother and I was more than happy to give something back for all the great work they had done.

I was based in their headquarters in Vauxhall (opposite a very nice view of the river!) and I used the skills from my economics degree to give, among other projects, accurate and reliable forecasts for several areas of the charity. The team let me experiment with what I had learnt and I've definitely become a better economist because of the experience. Everyone in the team was great fun to work with, the environment was highly driven, and I was able to contribute a significant amount to improve the efficiency of the charity.

I would encourage anyone looking at second-year internships to avoid the usual and try to use your skills, and what you've learnt so far, for something you believe in. Volunteering over summer is an ideal way to support a good cause and gain some really positive experiences for the future."

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Joe Nevin, Volunteer intern



AICR

*Cancer knows no boundaries.
Fortunately, neither do we.*

Leyla Nor **BSc in Actuarial Science** **Volunteer with Teach for Malaysia, AICR and** **an LSE Student Volunteering Ambassador**

Since joining LSE Leyla has volunteered on a number of projects and is particularly passionate about education, fundraising through running and encouraging others to get involved in volunteering.

She spent last summer volunteering with Teach for Malaysia (TFM), an NGO passionate about young people in Malaysia receiving the best education possible. Leyla says, "My role was to shadow a TFM teacher, in a high-need school. I was tasked with helping them with things like; attending to students who need extra help, help them with class preparation, organise class activities for the students and talk to the students about life after high school and life as a university student."

Throughout the winter Leyla has been training hard for the Paris Marathon to raise funds for the Association for International Cancer Research. She's been fundraising for this by selling cakes on Houghton Street and raising as much awareness as possible.

Finally, she has also been an LSE Student Volunteering Ambassador, inspiring others to help in the community. Leyla has the following message to other LSE students, "I really enjoy volunteering as it gives me a chance to give back to the community. It gives you a chance to meet new people, learn new things and gain new experiences. It feels amazing to be able to make others smile, or make your community a better place or share what you have with others. It is really easy to start, and once you do, it is difficult to stop. So, what are you waiting for?"





Matthew Cleary
BSc in Economics
Corporate Relations Executive
at LSE Enactus

I first got involved with Enactus at the start of my second year at LSE. I went along to the introductory meeting and immediately felt way out of my depth – people were talking about changing the world and trips to India and Tanzania. I didn't have any idea what I would be able to do to help!

However, 18 months on, I would struggle to think of a more rewarding experience than my time with Enactus. Not only have I made some great friends, I've presented to a room of 100 people, rubbed shoulders with some brilliant business minds, and, most importantly, done a bit of good.

Enactus (formerly SIFE) is a worldwide organisation which seeks to promote student-led social enterprise. The LSE branch has been active for six years now, and we have grown from a new society to one of the best medium-sized Enactus teams in the UK. Our members have accomplished a range of exceptional feats – from helping homeless people in London secure employment, to teaching financial literacy to children in Malaysia.

This year, I've been involved with our charity consulting project, LSE Support. We've worked with the London Orchard Project (a charity aiming to promote locally-grown fruit in the capital) on their long-term business model. This has been a learning experience for me; I've finally been able to apply some of my economics degree to a real situation!

I've also taken on the role of Corporate Relations Executive. One of the most unique things about Enactus is its strong links with business – each Enactus team has its own Business Advisory Board (BAB), and I strongly



believe that ours is up there with the best! We have advisors from a range of firms, including Slaughter and May, Macquarie, and Accenture, who provide our members with invaluable guidance and support. My job has been to engage with our BAB to ensure that everyone benefits from the relationship.

As I graduate this year, I will be able to look back on my time in Enactus as one of my most defining experiences during my time at LSE. I recommend it to any LSE student who fancies something good to put on their CV, or just wants to do something good for the world.

"Not only have I made some great friends, I've presented to a room of 100 people, rubbed shoulders with some brilliant business minds, and, most importantly, done a bit of good."

Matthew Cleary, LSE Enactus



Tegan Jones
International Volunteer Coordinator
Azafady

Azafady is an award-winning British registered charity (number 1079121) partnered with an independent Malagasy NGO. Their mission is to alleviate poverty and conserve unique and biologically rich but greatly endangered forest environments in south east Madagascar by empowering some of the poorest people to establish sustainable livelihoods for themselves and improve their well-being.

Tegan says, "At Azafady, volunteers are absolutely essential to the running of our charity! Without them our small London based office would almost certainly transcend into chaos. Our volunteers contribute in many ways, such as replying to never-ending email enquiries, accepting prospective candidates onto our programmes in Madagascar; updating spread sheets and keeping our filing cabinet in check in the process, creating engaging new content for our social media websites and brainstorming new marketing avenues to continue raising awareness about Azafady.

Over the past 12 months LSE volunteers have successfully accepted and sent just under 100 budding volunteers and their enormous amount of money fundraised over to Madagascar to help work on 1 of our 3 programmes based on the island. They have also attended several events aimed at encouraging university students to get involved with the charity sector, boosted our Facebook and Twitter presence, researched potential corporate donors and helped contribute to a variety of funding proposals."



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Jess Dunning
Volunteer Development Manager
IntoUniversity

"IntoUniversity works with students aged 7-18 from more disadvantaged backgrounds, at 11 centres in London. Last year we were delighted to be crowned as the "LSE Voluntary Organisation of the Year". LSE students inspire our students by giving them a taste of university life and helping them with their academic work to ensure they achieve their ambitions! They do this through being a Mentor, an Academic Support Tutor or a Buddy.

LSE volunteers offer our students an insight into university and most importantly act as positive role models, inspiring our students to achieve. From September 2013 – March 2014 we have had the pleasure of working with 47 fantastic LSE student volunteers as Mentors, Academic Support Tutors and Buddies. Between them, they have built up over 600 volunteering hours, an incredible achievement! We have also held successful Buddy days with the Enactus Society and with LSE Women Leaders of Tomorrow."

Connor Russell, an LSE student and IntoUniversity Mentor says, "Volunteering with IntoUniversity may have been the best decision I made in my first year. In terms of the experiences I've had, skills I've learned and people I've met, it's surely as significant as anything I've done on campus."



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Jess Dunning, IntoUniversity

"Volunteering is a fantastic activity to put on your CV which employers really value – it develops your leadership, communication and team work skills, and working with young people is both a rewarding and challenging experience that you can talk about in the future. Through volunteering with us, you could also take part in additional training opportunities with IntoUniversity and with our corporate partners. Your volunteering hours will be recorded and you can receive accreditation for 25, 50 and 100 hours of volunteering, an additional achievement for your CV."

Jess Dunning, IntoUniversity



Katerina Kimmorley
MPhil/ PhD in Environmental Economics
Founder of Pollinate Energy

“Pollinate Energy was conceived in 2012, when I travelled to Bangalore to research the value of distributing renewable energy solutions in urban slums for my LSE master’s thesis in Environmental Economics and Climate Change. My research, investigating the value of distributing renewable energy solutions to urban slums in Bangalore, led to the creation of Pollinate Energy, a social business, which is currently active in 300 communities across Bangalore, and will expand to other Indian cities in 2014. I am now back at the School pursuing a doctorate in Environmental Economics and have been working as a volunteer on the project.”

Pollinate Energy aims to improve energy poverty by providing the urban poor with access to sustainable products, like solar lights, that make their lives better. Pollinate Energy trains members of the local community to distribute and install solar lighting systems as micro-entrepreneurs, or what the organisation calls “Pollinators.” These Pollinators are armed with the best solar systems on the market and sell them to families within their communities. In their first month the Pollinators are teamed up with International Fellows and local interns who provide the training and support they need to start their own business. These Fellows have a passion for social business and Pollinate Energy helps them to develop their own social business ideas whilst in they are on the program in India.

In 2013 the organisation was awarded the UN Momentum for Change and UN SEED awards just four days after its first birthday. In 2014 Katerina received funding from the LSE Entrepreneurship funding competition to expand the operation of Pollinate Energy to its second city Chennai.



Katerina says

“The LSE masters completely changed the course of my life; it led me to India to investigate the provision of solar lighting in urban slums, and cofound Pollinate Energy. Since then it has been to work of our founders, Fellows, interns and Pollinators that has allowed us to achieve so much”

REACH OUT

Frances Blackwell **Programme and Volunteer Manager** **ReachOut London**

ReachOut is a mentoring charity working with children in disadvantaged communities to raise aspirations and help them grow in character and competence. They improve self-confidence and develop numeracy, literacy, communication and memory skills whilst reinforcing our core values of fairness, self-control, good judgement and staying power. They do this through one-to-one mentoring with positive role models and team activities to promote leadership, trust and responsibility.

Frances explains, "Our fantastic volunteer mentors work one-to-one with a young person in a classroom environment, supporting them with their homework or English and Maths activities chosen by the Project Leader. They work with the same young person each week to ensure they can get to know their mentee and really build a supportive relationship. We also have volunteers who help us with fundraising or spreading the word about ReachOut at their university through social media and at events.

"Over the last 12 months, we have had around 30 volunteer from LSE who have mentored young people on a weekly basis on our projects. With help from these mentors, our young people are better prepared for their upcoming exams and transitions such as moving to secondary school or sixth form. We couldn't run these projects without these volunteers and are very grateful for their help!"



"Volunteering is invaluable for young people looking to embark on a career. It looks great on your CV, whatever job you are applying for, showing you are proactive, adventurous and can manage your time. We are constantly told how often our volunteers have referred to ReachOut in interviews at law firms, banks and advertising agencies! In an increasingly competitive job market, volunteering sets you apart from the crowd."

Frances Blackwell, ReachOut London

Raising and Giving

RAG (Raising and Giving) is the fundraising arm of the Students' Union. We lead the biggest fundraising effort on campus for our three dedicated charities chosen by the student body, and support other members of the LSE in their charitable work too. This year has been an extraordinary success for RAG. Last year, we grew from strength to strength, fundraising £40,000 in total. Now, we are proud to announce that LSE students have collectively raised over £100,000.

One new addition to our yearly events programme was the hosting of clubbing events during 'Freshers Week'. For the first time, students had a wristband, the 'RAG' band, which guaranteed them entry to certain venues throughout the week. This saw a great kickstart to our year, and raised in excess of £15,000.

We have also built stronger links with the School. In November, thirty students slept on Houghton Street overnight to raise money for Spires, one of our charities. The sleepout caught the attention of Director Craig Calhoun, and we were featured on the LSE Intranet. Not only did this raise awareness of RAG, but it raised the profile of Spires; demonstrated when LSE Arts decided to donate proceeds from the sale of Andrew Lloyd Webber tickets to the charity.

Not only this, but our relationship with LSE Volunteer Centre has reached new heights as we had our first collaborative event with the Youth Funding Network, raising money for three charities that are in their beginnings.

The real heroes this year have been our students, however. Students have well and truly challenged themselves in the name of our charities. Over twenty students participated in 'Tough Guy', the world's most gruelling obstacle course, which will enable Make-A-Wish Foundation UK to grant a magical wish to a child suffering from a life threatening illness.



*Left: RAG gets lost participants
Right: RAG Committee 2013-14*

Brave adventurers also took on the challenge of hitchhiking 1,000 miles to Zagreb, Croatia in aid of Spires. Fifty students proved their resilience as they all managed to reach the destination, and raised close to £6,000 as families and friends followed their journeys back home.

And, we have a group of students who will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro this September; RAG really has reached new heights!

It has been a year of growth for RAG. We have grown to be the biggest society on campus, and we have raised more money than ever before. We hope to continue to grow next year, to improve the student experience, and to act as ambassadors for LSE.



Spires

Spires is a South London based charity that helps hundreds of homeless and disadvantaged people all year round. It aims to improve the quality of life of people who are homeless, insecurely housed, unemployed or suffering from the effects of poverty, mental ill health and loneliness.

Spires works to achieve its aims through the provision of a wide range of day centre services. Service users access Spires for a range of reasons; for breakfast and hot lunch, clothing, showers, companionship, advice and support from knowledgeable staff regarding housing, substance misuse and benefits. They work with a number of external agencies and are able to refer service users to services which are relevant to their personal circumstances.

This year we are proud to say that our fundraising efforts have raised over £15,000 for the charity.

Rebecca Sunter, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Spires said: "Spires are ever so grateful to LSESU RAG for all their hard work fundraising for us over the past year. We're a small charity who rely on donations of time and money to keep our day centre services open to some of London's most vulnerable people. RAG have raised a fantastic amount of money which will be put towards our work with people who are rough sleeping on the streets of South London."

Meanwhile, James Wurr, one of RAG's hitchhike co-ordinators describes how he felt about working with Spires this year. "Working with Spires has been an absolute pleasure this year. In my role as Hitchhike Officer, I feel we have developed a strong bond exemplified by how much we have raised for them. Hopefully this will go a long way to achieving their goals!"



"Spires are ever so grateful to LSESU RAG for all their hard work fundraising for us over the past year,"

Rebecca Sunter, Spires Volunteer Coordinator



FoodCycle

FoodCycle is a national charity with four objectives. These are: reducing food waste, reducing food poverty, training volunteers and building communities.

The LSE 'hub' is FoodCycle's original – started in 2009, the hub meets weekly on Sunday's to cook up a surplus meal in a community centre in King's Cross.

Emily Goodwin, hub leader, said: "The impact FoodCycle has is incredible; in the past year, our hub alone has reclaimed 1,472kg of surplus food, serving 1,569 meals, using 919 volunteer hours. These stats are certainly impressive, however as a Hub Leader I can safely say that the impact is more easily felt in person. The weekly cycle of collecting, transporting, cooking and serving the food allows you to see first hand the impact FoodCycle has on the ground.

"Aside from RAG helping us reach our annual hub target of £2,500 we are currently in transition and looking to relocate our weekly sessions. Therefore, when we settle into our new kitchen we are likely to have overheads to cover. This could include kitchen equipment and promotional materials to help us set off with a bang! Once up and running we will be able to use the RAG money in the organisation of fundraisers and awareness raising events as well as for those occasions where we need to top-up our weekly food donations. On behalf of FoodCycle LSE, thank you to all those involved with RAG this year. The money you have raised will be carefully spent, with lashings of gratitude!"

Top: Salsa Society during RAG week.

Bottom: Visual arts society folding a thousand cranes



"On behalf of FoodCycle LSE, thank you to all those involved with RAG this year,"

Emily Goodwin, FoodCycle volunteer and LSE student



Make-A-Wish Foundation UK

RAG also supported Make-A-Wish Foundation UK this year, an international non-profit organisation that grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. There are over 20,000 children and young people in the UK with life-threatening illnesses and, this year alone, Make-A-Wish UK intends to grant over 1,000 wishes. These wishes can range from meeting a favourite celebrity to enjoying an F1 experience at Silverstone or becoming Batman for the day! Sadly, these wishes may be the last happy memories for young children suffering immense adversity and, as such, no expense is spared; Make-A-Wish are aiming to raise £7 million in 2014.

We were excited to commit to helping the dreams of such amazing children come true. We dedicated one of our challenges, Tough Guy, to this charity and raised over £4,000 which will cover the average cost of a wish.

Alice Rowland, a first year student who completed Tough Guy, said: "Tough guy was ridiculously tough; I never thought I would develop such a deep seated hatred for icy cold water. Although we all finished broken, bruised people, it was such a great feeling knowing we raised over £5,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation which really is such a great cause for terminally ill children, and, at some points, despite the mild hypothermia it was fun at times!"

Overall, RAG has raised enough money for three wishes to be granted.

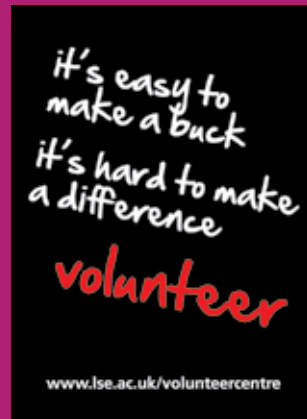
Top: Dave Benson Phillips hosting Get Your Own Back

Bottom: Tough Guy



"It was such a great feeling knowing we raised over £5,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation which really is such a great cause for terminally ill children."

Alice Rowland, LSE student



lse.ac.uk/volunteercentre