



LSE Volunteers

Celebrating volunteering and fundraising at LSE in 2017-18



Introduction

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 Students' Union will continue to work in partnership to further develop 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.

LSE students are amongst the most dedicated volunteers in the UK, with 40 percent of students giving hundreds of hours of their time and raising thousands of pounds. With their skills, dedication and hard work, they have a significant impact on the lives of many people, including their own. LSE Volunteers foster a sense of community on campus and make an important contribution to the work of charities all over the world.

We're delighted to share with you their inspiring stories and hope you enjoy reading about the impact of LSE volunteers. The students and charities featured represent a handful of the fantastic individuals, groups and charities we work with. Join us to help celebrate volunteering and fundraising at LSE.

Gabriella Monasso
LSE Volunteer Centre Manager

Julia Lawson-Johns
RAG president 2017-18

A year in review

The 2017-18 academic year has been a year of partnerships and record growth in terms of engagement and opportunities at the LSE Volunteer Centre.

LSE students volunteer for a huge range of causes and in many different capacities, impacting the lives of thousands of people as well as their own. In our survey of 1800 students, 70 per cent said volunteering enhanced their LSE experience, felt their knowledge of their degree subject was enhanced and that their confidence and skills were improved.

In the last year, we have tripled the number of opportunities offered through the one-off volunteering programme, and have worked with new partners from across the school to successfully reach a larger and more diverse group of students. We organised the largest ever LSE #GivingTuesday, with staff, students and the SU getting involved, and this year's Student Volunteering Week has been our most successful to date. Other highlights include the new LSE Director Minouche Shafik signing our volunteer pledge as well as volunteering with FareShare. Our Fairs were attended by a record number of students and charities, with excellent feedback from both.

Outside of the LSE, we have worked with over 400 organisations, offering more opportunities than ever before and have received outstanding feedback about LSE students and the impact they have. We have also been invited by external organisations including *The Telegraph* to share our knowledge.

We are excited to build on this year's successes and to inspire even more students to become part of the LSE volunteering community.

Gabriella Monasso

LSE Volunteer Centre Manager

LSE alumna, MSc in Inequalities and Social Science 2016



“Volunteering is an important part of being part of a community. Whether on the LSE campus, in a local neighbourhood or on an international scale, we can all bring about change by investing our time in causes we care about. The impact of volunteering on students can be truly life-changing by improving their well-being, confidence and skills, all whilst improving the lives of others. Volunteering fosters a cooperative and collaborative spirit on and off campus, and is valuable, necessary and rewarding for all that are #partofLSE.”

LSE Director, Dame Minouche Shafik



Volunteer Centre at LSE Careers ■

“Volunteering has allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and learn the values of patience and effective communication.”

Carole Reniero

Carole Reniero

BSc in Anthropology

Student Volunteering Ambassador

LSE Volunteer Centre

When I found out I could become a mentor for ReachOut UK and an academic performance coach for CoachBright, I knew I had found something inspiring and challenging. I was excited to do something different and to learn new skills, but above all, I was looking forward to exploring my two biggest passions: education and working with young people.

Volunteering for these organisations over the past years has allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and learn the values of patience and effective communication. It has been a rewarding experience, which has inspired me to work in the non-profit sector after graduation, and more specifically, to work for an organisation that tackles educational disadvantage. My dream is to have my own start-up one day but who knows! One step at a time...

Volunteering has always given me a sense of satisfaction and happiness that has prompted me to become one of LSE's Volunteering Ambassadors. As a team, we have been able to encourage other students to take part in one-offs and other opportunities. Volunteering at university is undoubtedly something I recommend to all LSE students, present and future!



Rob Clapp

BSc in Environment and Development

Project Coordinator

LSESU FoodCycle



I've been volunteering as the project coordinator for LSESU FoodCycle's SAVE FOOD Project for nearly a year and it has really been the cherry on top of my LSE experience. The Project collects surplus food from local cafes, including LSE's Café 54, and redistributes it outside Lincoln's Inn Fields to those most

vulnerable to food poverty. In my role, I've managed the project as it has grown from pilot stage to currently working with over 30 volunteers.

Volunteering has really enhanced my LSE experience because it's a great way to meet new people who share a common interest. It provides a structured opportunity to work in a team and make a difference, and you form a real bond because opportunities continue throughout the year.

By giving me a break from studying, volunteering also helped me feel refreshed. Volunteering with FoodCycle is often active; you're carrying and distributing food or representing the charity on a stall. It's a welcome change from sitting in the Library!

Volunteering has helped me develop skills and learn about myself. Being involved with this project has sparked my interest in project management. Moreover, volunteering teaches you a lot about leadership, working with others, and communicating – skills that are relevant wherever you decide to work.

“Volunteering has really enhanced my LSE experience because it's a great way to meet new people who share a common interest.”

Rob Clapp



“ I’ve been privileged to hear the many histories, stories, and perspectives of the community’s diverse members, and their ongoing struggle and resolve to get by. ”

Harry Draper

Harry Draper

MSc in Social Anthropology

Trainer Advisor and Advocate

Community Links

Community Links (CL) work on a diverse number of programmes aiming to sustain local resilience in East London. It runs a diverse set of advice and form-filling sessions; youth, employment and health programmes; and advocates alongside those in crisis.

I’ve been volunteering at CL since November 2017. On my first day, I was warmly welcomed to ‘form-filling’, a room abuzz with committed and impassioned volunteers and staff working with community residents to fill out forms for housing and welfare benefits. My designated mentor that day was so impressive that I knew I wanted to stay.

With the unflinching support of those at CL, I’ve been able to advise clients on welfare payments, represent clients at tribunals before a judge, and work alongside social work teams to manage crises like homelessness and eviction. I’ve been privileged to hear the many histories, stories, and perspectives of the community’s diverse members, and their ongoing struggle and resolve to get by.

I was also an LSE Volunteering Ambassador - an opportunity that has enriched my time at university. The immediacy, diversity and pragmatism of the role offered an exciting and stimulating change. LSE Volunteer Centre’s team have been brilliant throughout.

Vanessa Reid

LLM Master of Laws

Summer Casework Volunteer

Bar Pro Bono Unit



Volunteering for the Bar Pro Bono Unit gave me the chance to put my LSE education to work in the real world. I gained practical experience, had a direct impact

on people's lives, and came to feel part of the broader legal community. This was the perfect experience to help me translate my academic studies into meaningful work in the community and to gain invaluable insight into the practical workings of the legal world.

As a casework volunteer, I processed applications and took calls from members of the public in need of pro bono legal services. This gave me an overview of the challenges facing the most vulnerable members of the community as well as the depth of the need for volunteer legal services. I gained practical knowledge about legal procedures and substantive law. In addition, I got to know barristers in all areas of law, as the Unit arranged numerous opportunities for networking and socialising.

Volunteering for the Unit made my LSE experience richer by supplementing my academic studies with work that had a real impact in the world. The experience was invaluable and so much fun. My time at LSE would not have been the same without it.



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Vanessa Reid

Organisations have said...

The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network

Charlie Fraser, Co-Founder and Director



"The past year, we've benefited from the skills and enthusiasm of more than 10 LSE students.

Without fail, they've brought professionalism, energy and insight to every task they've been given, allowing us to achieve far beyond our goal. Without the LSE Volunteer Centre, we're certain that we wouldn't have been able to meet our volunteer needs."

CoachBright

Robin Chu, Founder & CEO



"The LSE Volunteer Centre has been organised, diligent and super

professional in helping us find our student volunteers over the years! This year, we have had over 20 volunteers who are committed and care deeply about making education fairer and have supported pupils to become more motivated, confident and crucially, improved their attainment."

Wonder Foundation

Olivia Darby, Director of Policy and Campaigns



"LSE students have injected energy and expertise into Wonder Foundation. We have learnt from them as

much as they have learnt from us and they have enabled us to support many more women and engage many more people than we could have done without them."

Coin Street Community Builders

Laura Reynolds, Community Participation Manager




"The ongoing support from the LSE Volunteer Centre team is really valuable.

They helped ensure our roles were attractive to students and the Volunteering Fair was well organised and attended as ever. The LSE volunteers have been a huge asset to our programmes and events and the group of LSE volunteers that supported our Young at Heart seniors party in January helped us put on a brilliant event!"


Afghanistan and Central Asian Association

Dr. Nooralhaq Nasimi, Director

 *"Students from the LSE are among the most engaged and intelligent volunteers that we have. We are always impressed by their dedication and desire to help others."*


The Funding Network

Jennie Jeffery, International and Finance Coordinator

 *"Working with the LSE Volunteer Centre over the last 5 years has been a fantastic partnership for our organisation. We've benefited so much from the committed and dynamic LSE volunteers, and from the enthusiasm and expertise of the staff."*

Walkabout Foundation

Camilla Fitzgerald, Events Manager

 *"LSE Students form part of the highest calibre of millennials, showing constant excitement, hard-work and enthusiasm for causes such as ours. We have never failed to be impressed by them, and always look forward to welcoming new volunteers."*



© Coin Street Community Builders



CHILD

.ORG

“The LSE Volunteer Centre is invaluable to our work by putting us in touch with volunteers that play a key role in expanding the commercial products that we build.”

Bobak Saadat



Bobak Saadat
Fundraising Product Officer
Child.org

Every child deserves an equal opportunity. Child.org are here to make that happen by giving children facing the most difficult situations a way to take their life forward. The LSE Volunteer Centre is invaluable to our work by putting us in touch with volunteers that play a key role in expanding the commercial products that we build.

LSE volunteers have been instrumental in kick-starting some of these fundraising projects such as our Undercover Books product. One of these volunteers was Bella, who did everything from selling books to coming up with new titles. By diving into the testing process, Bella's findings were key in enabling us to iterate and produce better products. LSE volunteers have made a big impact to date for Child.org by enabling us to scale up these products.

We have also been fortunate enough to find several fantastic interns via the LSE Volunteer Centre and LSE Careers, and always enjoy meeting students through events such as Charity Tuesdays and the Volunteering Fairs; especially since LSE students are really keen to engage in discussions on how to do effective charity work – a topic we are really passionate about and which underpins our work!



Fabia Crole
Programme Officer
Future Frontiers



Future Frontiers is working towards a day where every child is inspired to fulfil their potential in school. LSE volunteers have been integral to our programme delivery and played a pivotal part in the recruitment of new (lead) coaches, enabling us to grow our volunteer base and increase our impact.

LSE students have been unfailingly impressive in their dedication and determination to transform the life-chances of young people. They continually strive to provide the very best experience for the pupils, equipping them with the information, skills, and mind-set they need to realise their career aspirations and to achieve their full potential at school. It has been of tremendous benefit to our pupils to have such dedicated coaches to deliver the programme and to gain insights into the lives and experiences of students studying at a global and well-renowned institution.

We were delighted to have been recognised as LSE's Voluntary Organisation of the Year 2017 and are incredibly grateful to the Volunteer Centre for their continued support. The past year, we have worked with more pupils than ever before and they have been pivotal in enabling us to access the talent that is crucial to the success of our programme; we look forward to continue to working with them.

“ LSE students have been unfailingly impressive in their dedication and determination to transform the life-chances of young people. ”

Fabia Crole



Raising and Giving

Julia Lawson-Johns

BSc in Geography with Economics

RAG relic (and president 2017-18)

Besides literal bread and butter (and the occasional scrambled egg), RAG has been the bread and butter of my LSE experience. My first interaction with RAG was as a fresh-faced first year, keen to bring sponsorship to student chosen charities. The experience of being Sponsorship Officer equipped me with a heap of close friends and a love for RAG which has endured 4 years at LSE.

As by far the largest and one of the most active LSE societies, RAG engages with thousands of students each year through its events, challenges and numerous collaborations with societies. We are proud to excel in unconventional fundraising: from shaking a bucket in King's Cross dressed as a toilet, to climbing Mount Everest, or hitchhiking to Budapest with friends, LSESU RAG has it all. Even more importantly, everything we do is for great charities chosen by LSE's students!

This year has been especially successful for RAG, thanks to the hard work of our wonderful committee and ever-growing network of students and staff who want to see RAG succeed.

RAG sits at the very heart of the LSE community and, despite the occasional stress-inducing moment, is a brilliant way to find friends, have new experiences and support incredible charities. I sincerely hope that me leaving LSE (finally) is met with others taking up the cause.

“RAG has been the bread and butter of my LSE experience.”

“We are proud to excel in unconventional fundraising.”

Julia Lawson-Johns

James Thomas Bonner

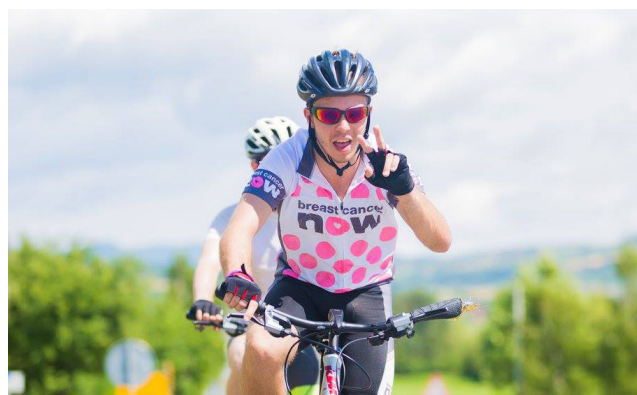
MSc in Social Policy

Prolific Ragger and full time cycling legend

From first going out in London and making lifelong friends with a RAG Band (way back in 2014), to being dropped off in Cromer dressed as Ron Weasley (complete with newly dyed red hair), RAG has been a staple of my time at LSE.

Though at times stressful, it provides a great escape from the hectic nature of life at LSE we all know far too well. What's more, everything we do is for a good cause. Be it organising club nights or persuading charities to bring puppies onto campus, RAG is constantly working to improve the lives of those less fortunate.

This year I've been focussed on the London to Paris cycle challenge to raise money for the wonderful Breast Cancer Now. With any luck you'll have seen our posters around campus. The challenge sums up the very essence of RAG. After challenging students to help stop Breast Cancer by raising £1000, we're now supporting those that have signed up to meet their targets in whatever way they need and coming June we'll be sending them off on the adventure of a lifetime. If that's not a great way to make the most of your time at University, I'm not sure what is.



RAG provides a great escape from the hectic nature of life at LSE.



James Thomas Bonner

LSESU RAG

LSESU RAG is one of the fastest growing RAG societies in the country, raising over £100,000 last year alone. Three-time award winning, RAG raises money for a number of amazing causes; this year we're representing Haven House Children's Hospice, Mind and War Child.

We facilitate society and club fundraising and aim to increase students' exposure to amazing charitable causes. We've had the benefit of having Oliver Wyman and Blackrock as sponsors, which enabled us to organise more fundraising events than ever before.

With a host of events throughout the year, LSESU RAG puts what students want as their priority; providing outings and innovative ways to raise money for charities voted for by our students. The nominated charities change each year, ensuring that the LSE supports a broad spectrum of charitable foundations.

Charities 2017-18

Local Charity of the Year

Haven House Children's Hospice



Haven House Children's Hospice supports families and cares for children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, serving 11 London Boroughs, West Essex and East Hertfordshire. To date they have provided support for over 900 families.

National Charity of the Year

Mind, the mental health charity



Mind believes no-one should have to face a mental health problem alone. They provide direct support to over 250,000 people each year, while also offering suicide

intervention skills workshops and working alongside journalists to promote more accurate representations of mental health.

International Charity of the Year

War Child



War Child protects, educates and stands up for the rights of children caught up in zones of conflict such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Uganda.



Harry White

3rd Year BSc Government and History

"RAG has given me the opportunity to develop myself as a person and give back to the community alongside my friends the whole time!"

Hattie Knutton

2nd Year BSc International History

"RAG has shown me how imaginative and exciting fundraising can be. It's never been a chore, just a genuine celebration of people's generosity!"

Dan Alam

3rd Year LLB Law

"My experiences with RAG have taken me to a different country and allowed me to take part in, and eventually help organise a range of different events. But the best part of RAG is the people; making great friends all working towards brilliant causes"



Sarah Quinn

1st Year BSc Philosophy, Politics and Economics

"RAG has shown me the sights of Lyme Regis and the second floor of the Saw Swee Hock building. I have memories of anything from fossils to Fosters, and dinosaur eggs to EGG LDN!"

Alice Harrison

3rd Year BSc Social Anthropology

"I love that we have the opportunity to choose the charities that RAG supports. We can actually see where the money that we raise is going."

Filsan Roble

3rd Year BA History

"I didn't really take part in RAG until my Third Year, and boy did I miss out. RAG puts on the most incredible events; from climbing mountains to hitchhiking through Europe. I'm happy to have taken part; even if I did only attend the club nights."

lse.ac.uk/volunteercentre



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volunteer@lse.ac.uk



*The LSE Volunteer Centre
is a centre of knowledge on
the transformational impact that
volunteering has for LSE students.*

*We inspire and empower the LSE
community to volunteer for causes
they are passionate about and aim to
create active citizens, shaping a better
world through volunteering.*



The LSE Volunteer Centre