



Volunteering
in
LEEDS



Your guide to
getting involved



Your guide to volunteering in Leeds



If you want to get involved in the community, gain skills, have fun and make friends, then you might want to think about volunteering during your time at university. Over 2,500 students volunteer through Leeds University Union and you could be one of them. Here is a quick guide to how you can volunteer in Leeds. For more information, visit the Opportunities reception on Level 2 in the Union building, open during term time, 1pm to 4pm, on weekdays.

Things to consider

DBS check

Please be advised that according to UK directives, one of the requirements for working with children and vulnerable adults is a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. We cannot process DBS checks for international students so international students must obtain the equivalent check from their home country. We may be able to process DBSs for international students who have lived in the UK for at least 5 years

prior to applying (at our discretion). Students can contact their embassy to provide us with an equivalent check from their previous country of residence. If you already have a check (sometimes called a certificate of good conduct) from your native country please bring that to one of our drop in sessions with your passport and we will review it on an individual basis.

Hours

Please note that the number of hours you can volunteer for might be restricted by the type of visa you entered the UK with. If you would like to get more information or have an informal chat about this or anything to do with volunteering, please come to one of our drop-in sessions.



*Do you have an idea for a project?
We can help you set it up. Come
and talk to us.*



Ways to get involved

Join a volunteering club or society

DBS required: **✗** (the only society you would need a DBS for is Action)

Flexible: **✓**

English: Beginner +

Clubs and societies are a great place to do something that interests you, find new passions, make friends and have fun. There are over 25 student-led volunteering projects and societies for you to get involved in. Look out for opportunities through the Give it a Go scheme. See www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/clubsandsocieties.

It's really easy to join: login in to Leeds University Union's website using your ISS username. Go to the society page you want to join and click 'Add to basket' next to the membership you want. Go to the basket and proceed to the checkout.

Stand for a committee position in a club or society

DBS required: **✗** (the only society you would need a DBS for is Action)

Flexible: **✓**

English: Intermediate +

Student clubs and societies are run by elected committees. Every society needs a President, Treasurer and Secretary and many also have additional roles. If you find a society you like, why not consider standing for a committee position at its next AGM

(Annual General Meeting). Find out more at www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/clubsandsocieties.

Stand for your Hall's Exec

DBS required: **✗**

Flexible: Available if you live in halls

English: Intermediate +

Halls' Execs organise events, sports and other activities within Halls of Residences. To be on your halls' exec, you must first nominate yourself for a role and then be elected by students in your hall. To find out more, see www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/hallexec.

Volunteer in the community

DBS required: Depends on the volunteering opportunity

Flexible: **✓**

English: Beginner +

The Opportunities office works closely with the Access and Community Engagement team at the University of Leeds to enable cooperation between students and local community organisations. You could be doing anything from web design or translating to gardening or community clean ups. Visit volunteering.leeds.ac.uk to search current volunteering opportunities available to students in Leeds.



Volunteer on an LUU Community Project

DBS required: ✗

Flexible: ✓

English: Beginner + (depends on the project)

We run our own community projects including Bardon Grange, a community food growing project, Knowledge, a crime awareness and safety project, and Leave Leeds Tidy, a project that aims to reduce the environmental impact students have on Leeds during the changeover period. Find out more at www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/community.

Become a Rep!

DBS required: ✗

Flexible: ✓

English: Intermediate +

There are opportunities to represent your peers as a Course or School Rep (representing students on your course or in your school), a Community Rep (representing students living in certain areas of Leeds) or as an Activities Rep (representing a category of student clubs and societies). For more information, visit the Leeds University Union website.

For more information on volunteering in Leeds, go to www.luu.org.uk/volunteering

Opportunities outside of LUU

There are other organisations that can help you find volunteering opportunities including Voluntary Action Leeds (www.val.org.uk), University of Leeds' Access and Community Engagement (volunteering.leeds.ac.uk) and the Leeds for Life Website (www.leedsforlife.ac.uk).

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

GETTING INVOLVED

GAINING SKILLS

VOLUNTEERING