Volunteering and International students

Volunteering is a great way to get to know Bath, meet new people, and learn CV-boosting skills.   
  
The Volunteer Team is here to make volunteering as easy as possible – whether you’re new to volunteering, or have volunteered in the past, we’re here to help. Browse our [volunteer opportunities](https://www.thesubath.com/volunteer/browse/) to find out what is on offer.  
  
  
**Volunteering and visas**

If you are an international student it is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with the conditions of your visa at all times, including any restrictions on working in the UK. Please go to [Work you are allowed to do on your full-time Student Visa (bath.ac.uk)](https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/work-you-are-allowed-to-do-on-your-full-time-student-or-tier-4-visa/) for more details.

If you are unsure of your work permissions, please speak to an Immigration Adviser by emailing [studentimmigrationservice@bath.ac.uk](mailto:studentimmigrationservice@bath.ac.uk)

For students on a [Student](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa) visa, there is a legal distinction between volunteering and voluntary work. Virtually all opportunities we have on offer meet the definition of volunteering rather than ‘voluntary work’, so would be allowed on a Student visa. If you’re in any doubt, please [contact us](http://studentsunionucl.org/get-involved/welcome/contact-vsu) on [volunteers@bath.ac.uk](mailto:volunteers@bath.ac.uk) or speak to an Immigration Adviser on [studentimmigrationservice@bath.ac.uk](mailto:studentimmigrationservice@bath.ac.uk) before starting.

**The UK government’s definition of ‘Voluntary Work’ and ‘Volunteering’**

**Voluntary workers:**

* often have a contract (which does not have to be written) with their employer (this means the employer must provide the work and the voluntary worker must attend at particular times and carry out specific tasks)
* voluntary workers are also usually remunerated in kind, e.g. for offered free gifts, accommodation)

**Volunteers:**

* do not have a contract of employment
* must not take the place of an employee
* must not receive payment in kind but reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses (e.g. for lunch) is allowed
* usually help a charity or voluntary or public sector organisation