

## Charities & NGOs Week

### Speaker Biographies | UCL Careers: Getting into Charities & NGOs

#### Adam Dyster, National Trust, Parliamentary Advocacy Officer



Adam is currently the National Trust's Parliamentary Officer, working with MPs and Peers to showcase the work of the Trust, as well as lobbying on policy issues from the future of farming to World Heritage Sites.

He studied history at UCL from 2012 - 2015, but has always been interested in politics and campaigning, and used summer holidays to do internships with charities in this space. Combining this experience with research and writing skills from his degree worked really well for the charity/not-for-profit sector.

Since graduating he has worked in marketing for an arts charity/theatre, ran events for a think-tank and as a communications lead for a Parliamentary charity, before joining the National Trust three years ago.

#### Paola Hanks, Leonard Cheshire, Community Volunteering Coordinator



Paola Hanks works for Leonard Cheshire as Community Volunteering Coordinator, a charity that supports individuals to live, learn and work as independently as they choose, whatever their ability is. Paola studied Political Science and International Relations in Colombia. After completing her BSc, she moved to London to complete a Masters in Comparative Politics in Latin American at the LSE. She started her volunteering journey early in her career and discovered that the voluntary sector was her real purpose. She volunteered for different charities, supporting different causes. Paola started as a Volunteer Coordinator for a Latin American charity called IRMO and later became a Trustee for the same charity. Before her current role, she joined Action for Children as a Volunteer Coordinator to support vulnerable children. At Leonard Cheshire, she is very keen to support disabled people and people from diverse backgrounds to gain new skills, confidence and access to employment. Paola believes volunteering is a great path to having a meaningful life.

#### Emily Niner, Ambitious about Autism, Participation Programme Manager



Emily Niner has been the Participation Programme Manager at Ambitious about Autism for nearly four years. She studied French and Russian at UCL and graduated in 2016. Her role leads the participation programme for young autistic people aged 16-25, delivering participatory projects, campaigns, and opportunities across the country. The most recent of which being the Include Autism Toolkit which provides advice and resources for making youth groups accessible and Know Your Normal which focusses on the mental health experiences of young autistic people. During COVID-19 the programme has offered nationwide online peer support sessions for young autistic people and delivered 'Understanding autism and mental health webinars' to professionals.

	<p>Emily is also a Churchill Fellow in the 2019 cohort, travelling to Australia and New Zealand to research best-practice in post-diagnostic support for autistic young people.</p> <p>Prior to working at Ambitious, Emily delivered participation contracts for local authorities, housing associations and schools.</p>
<p><b>Hannah Taaffe, Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network (SUN CSN), Advocacy &amp; Youth Adviser</b></p> 	<p>Hannah studied French and Italian at UCL from 2013-2017, which is where her passion for politics and campaigning was ignited. Her first role in the charity sector was in campaigns and communications at the Fawcett Society, where she worked part time during her final year. Since graduating she has worked in campaigns at Global Citizen and Save the Children. She is currently on secondment to the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network (SUN CSN) Secretariat which is hosted by Save the Children. In her role as Advocacy and Youth Adviser, she leads on the management and development of the Youth Leaders for Nutrition programme, a global group of 13 young people who advocate for an end to malnutrition in all its forms.</p> <p>She is a founding trustee of a nascent suicide prevention charity called Olly's Future, set up in memory of Oliver Hare, another UCL alumnus. Hannah is also a Clore Social Leadership Fellow, having taken part in the 2020 cohort of the Emerging Leaders Women &amp; Girls programme.</p>
<p><b>Fiona Tan, Save the Children, Campaigner</b></p> 	<p>Fiona studied a MSc in Global Health &amp; Development at UCL and after graduating actively sought out a career in the charity and NGO sector. Beginning with internships at Cancer Research UK and Global Citizen, she now works as a Campaigner at Save the Children. In her role she supports the development of campaign strategies and develops compelling propositions for different UK audiences. On top of this, she manages Save the Children's campaign volunteers who come together to lobby their MPs and put pressure on politicians. In the last 3 years, Fiona's journey in the sector includes working in sports events fundraising, administration &amp; coordination, and campaigns &amp; advocacy.</p>
<p><b>Sabina Siddiqui, Breaking Barriers, Education Programme Manager</b></p> 	<p>Sabina Siddiqui is a passionate educator who has experience in content development and organising and teaching English language and employability skills courses to communities who are unable to access traditional education. With a background in studying languages at SOAS and displaced, migrant communities through her MA at UCL, she pursues a career in reforming the educational experience for all. Her current role sees her as an Education Programme Manager at Breaking Barriers, working with refugees to improve their skills helping them obtain employment and develop the confidence they need to integrate into society</p>