

# UCL SOP VOLUNTEERING

Give back, better yourself and overcome your fears



Sixth Edition, Dec 2018

## UCL SoP Volunteering Fair Feedback

As you may know, just under a month ago we held a volunteering fair at the School of Pharmacy with an array of participating charities and organisations. Here is some feedback from a couple of students who were at the fair.



### 1. What did you like most about the volunteering fair

I found the volunteering fair very informative and interesting. It was well organised with a good variety of charities and institutions that offered different volunteering opportunities. I had never heard of many of the charities before the fair, and so this provided a great way to discover more about them and how I could actively get involved. – *Ina Zanj, Year 3*

I enjoyed being able to have one-on-one conversations with representatives from a range of non-profit organisations (NPOs) and learn about how I can be engaged in their programmes. – *Ong Jun Jai, Year 2*

### 2. How can we improve the fair for next time?

If possible, it would be great to incorporate more charities and increase the size of the fair. – *Ina Zanj, Year 3*

Many of the charities present at the fair ran a mentoring programme and so it would be good to see a wider variety (such as hospital volunteering). – *Ong Jun Jai, Year 2*

### 3. Did you sign up to anything? If so, what did you sign up for?

I signed up with Into University. This is an organisation which is involved in providing academic support and mentoring programmes for young people in disadvantaged postcode districts with the aim of inspiring them to pursue their ambitions. I think volunteering with this charity would be great as it would enhance my communication skills and provide a mutually beneficial experience for myself and the young people involved in the programme. It is also an inspiring role that would be a great way to ensure balance between university life and extracurricular activities. As well as signing up with Into University, I also spoke with representatives from other charities such as A21 (a non-governmental organization that works to fight human trafficking) whom I have since started to follow on social media in the hopes of learning more about what they're doing. – *Ina Zanj, Year 3*

Yes, I signed up for a charity called TeamUp. This charity runs a voluntary leadership programme whereby they train people to tutor children from low income backgrounds in order to help them reach their full academic potential. – *Ong Jun Jai, Year 2*

### 4. Are there any charities that you would have liked to see?

It would've been nice to see some more exciting opportunities that are based abroad or outside of term-time (i.e. during the summer holidays). If possible, it would be great to see an organisation such as GVI (<https://www.gvi.co.uk/student-volunteering/>). It would have also been quite beneficial to see collaboration with other UCL societies such as UCL UNICEF Society for example. – *Ina Zanj, Year 3*

I would have liked to see a few hospital-based charities at the fair. – *Ong Jun Jai, Year 2*

### 5. Has the fair inspired you to undertake any volunteering activities?

The fair has inspired me to engage in more activities that are of great benefit to society. Volunteering is great personal investment as it allows for the development of interpersonal skills. It has also highlighted the need to engage in experiences outside of our degree programme as there are some things that cannot be learnt in a classroom environment. It is also a great way to meet new people and network. – *Ina Zanj, Year 3*

Prior to attending the fair, I already had intentions of undertaking a volunteering role however, the fair provided a greater insight into the opportunities available in London. – *Ong Jun Jai, Year 2*

If you didn't get the chance to come to our Volunteering Fair, you can find out more about the charities involved by clicking on the logos below to head over to their respective websites.



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