

European Voluntary Service Host Projects 2017-2018



EVS 2016-17 at their On Arrival seminar in Brighton

Our International Youth Volunteering Programme (IYVP) supports young people from other European countries to volunteer in the UK. In 2017-18, we'll be hosting around 25 young volunteers from 5 partner countries. The volunteers will all arrive on September 4th 2017 and the placements will finish on August 31st 2018. The volunteers will be based at host projects across the UK. The different host projects are summarised below.

Host projects 2017-2018

British Red Cross Nottingham

Refugee Services / International Family Tracing

Our volunteers will be based within the Refugee & Vulnerable Migrant Support Team. We support asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants that find themselves destitute within the UK. Your tasks, depending on your role in the team, may include supporting beneficiaries to access drop-in centres or practical services (e.g. healthcare, education, leisure facilities), administrative support including recording casework notes on the service database, supporting staff with interviews as part of the International Family Tracing service, and helping to raise awareness about the



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work our team does. You might also help to organise Refugee Week events which to raise awareness about refugee issues and promote positive encounters between the British public and refugee communities.

British Red Cross Leeds

The Leeds office will host volunteers in the following services:

International Family Tracing - IFT

The IFT and Family Reunion support project aims to enable refugees to exercise their right to be reunited with their loved ones. Your tasks may include carrying out interviews with service users (with support from staff members, of course – you won't be left on your own!), carrying out local searches to find people in the UK, maintaining case records using our service database and paper files, supporting the IFT and Refugee Services outreach project, helping to raise awareness about the service and supporting the general administrative tasks of the team.

Refugee Services

Our 2 Refugee Services volunteers will support destitution projects run through drop-in centres in Leeds and Bradford. The destitution project is an emergency response service to support asylum seekers, refugees and other vulnerable migrants who are at risk of finding themselves destitute in the UK. Your tasks might include supporting beneficiaries to access drop-in centres or practical services (e.g. healthcare, education, leisure), administrative support including recording casework notes on the service database, and helping to raise awareness about Refugee Services.

British Red Cross Sheffield

Fundraising

The Community Fundraising department in Yorkshire raises over £240,000 for the work of the Red Cross a year! We are looking for a motivated, enthusiastic, committed and outgoing person to join the successful team for a busy period.

Your role will be to support the organisation and logistics of sponsored challenge events and our annual Red Cross Week in May. You might be helping our with marketing and working with the media, carrying out research, helping to write funding applications, communicating with trustees, volunteers and activity participants, supporting with admin tasks, designing fundraising materials and, of course, helping with the actual running of our exciting fundraising events as they happen!

Refugee Services

Our team supports asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants that find themselves destitute within the UK. Your tasks may include supporting beneficiaries to access drop-in centres or practical services (e.g. healthcare, education, leisure), helping out with drop-ins, administrative support including recording casework notes on the service database, and helping to raise awareness about Refugee Services. You may also have the opportunity to participate in the organisation of Refugee Week events to raise awareness about refugee issues and promote positive encounters between the British public and refugee communities.

International Family Tracing – IFT

The IFT and Family Reunion support project aims enable refugees to exercise their right to be reunited with their loved ones. Your tasks could include carrying out interviews with service users (with support from staff members of course!), carrying out local searches to find people in the UK, maintaining case records using our service database and paper files, supporting the IFT and Refugee Services outreach project and helping to raise awareness about the service and supporting the general administrative tasks of the team. This is a really rewarding placement, giving you an opportunity to meet a diverse range of people and make a real difference to their lives!

British Red Cross Portsmouth

Refugee Services

Our team supports asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants that find themselves destitute within the UK. Your tasks may include supporting beneficiaries to access drop-in centres or practical services (e.g. healthcare, education, leisure), helping out with drop-ins, administrative support including recording casework notes on the service database, and helping to raise awareness about Refugee Services. You may also have the opportunity to participate in the organisation of Refugee Week events which are held across the country to raise awareness about refugee issues and promote positive encounters between the British public and refugee communities.

Independent Living/ Youth Engagement

You will support both Youth Engagement and the Independent Living Service; working on a range of tasks depending on your own skills and areas of interest. Our Independent Living team offers support at home, transport and mobility aids to help people when they face a crisis in their daily lives. In this part of your role, you'll be working with other members of the team to deliver mobility aid equipment, follow-up with regularly with service users (phone calls/ home visits) and ensure their care plans are right for them, and help out with administrative tasks within the team. . In your role with Youth Engagement, you may be helping to run sessions with local community or student groups to raise awareness of the Red Cross, developing a social action project to get more young people involved with the Red Cross, or producing advocacy or information materials.

British Red Cross Hull

Independent Living Services

Our volunteers will support the Assisted Discharge Service (part of the Independent Living Team). This service aims to place each individual at the centre of what we do and help them to get through crisis by offering positive encouragement, practical help and emotional support up to 48 hours following their discharge from hospital. Our volunteers will be offered comprehensive training and staff support through all aspects of their placement. Your tasks might include:

- > Working alongside staff to transport service users home from hospital
- > Conducting short risk assessments of service users' homes

- > Supporting service users with practical tasks like shopping, collecting prescriptions, and preparing light meals following discharge from hospital
- > Carrying out follow-up "welfare checks" with service users, either over the phone or through a home visit
- > Maintaining a paper record of contact and activities undertaken with the service user Provide administrative and case work (data input) support to the Independent Living team.

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British Red Cross Liverpool

Fundraising

The Liverpool office would like to host one Fundraising volunteer to work alongside our fantastic team! We're looking for someone who is motivated, enthusiastic and loves working with a diverse range of people. Your role might include a range of tasks, including designing fundraising materials, working with the media, carrying out research, communicating with our volunteers and supporters involved in fundraising activities, admin support and, of course, helping out with the actual running of our exciting fundraising events on the day!

Refugee Services

Our team supports asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants that find themselves destitute within the UK. Your tasks may include supporting beneficiaries to access drop-in centres or practical services (e.g. healthcare, education, leisure), helping out with drop-ins, administrative support including recording casework notes on the service database, and helping to raise awareness about Refugee Services. You may also have the opportunity to participate in the organisation of Refugee Week events which are held across the country to raise awareness about refugee issues and promote positive encounters between the British public and refugee communities

British Red Cross London

International Family Tracing (Family Reunion)

The International Family Tracing Service (IFT) helps to restore contact between families separated by armed conflict, disaster or migration by using the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network. Our EVS volunteer will work on our Family Reunification Project, helping to reunite clients with family members overseas.

You will be part of a small team of volunteers who work closely with and are supervised by the family reunion co-ordinator on all aspects of a case; from dealing with initial enquiries right through to the submission of applications. You might also help with research, preparing case studies or publicising the project further. Depending on interest, you'll have the chance to offer post-arrival support to families, or to work with the wider Refugee Services team!

Independent Living Services

Based with the London Independent Living Services Team, you'll support the recruitment of volunteers to our Home from Hospital and Next steps services. Working with the Volunteer Coordinator, you will promote volunteering opportunities at various events and through a variety of means to increase the number of volunteers within each of the services. This role would suit someone with excellent interpersonal and communication skills and able to relate to people from a wide range of backgrounds. You'll also be able to support with home visits and case work support for clients, as well as having the chance to develop your own project within the service.

**There may be additional placements available within Refugee Services in London – these are yet to be confirmed*

Integrate Preston & Chorley Ltd, Preston

Integrate provides vocational and life skill training activities for the elderly, adults and young people with learning disabilities. They have a number of different projects for volunteers to assist in. You might be involved in furniture restoration projects, horticulture, gardening and outdoor leisure activities, including football and cricket. Volunteers will also support life skills training such as cooking, household tasks, budgeting and using public transport.

Valence School, Kent

Valence School is a residential school for students, aged 5 – 19, with physical disabilities. One of the main aims of the school is to break down the barriers that so often limit the activities of disabled children. Our volunteers will be involved in enabling the students to live as independently as possible and assist in activities such as swimming, physiotherapy and organised outings. You will assist the carers and teachers during the schooling day and after school in the residential areas. A driving licence is necessary for this placement as the school is in a very rural location! Our volunteers will have a car for their personal use.



What happens during my placement?

Pre-departure

Before you leave your home country you will meet other volunteers for pre-departure training with the European Commission. You will get practical information about the coming year and learn more about your rights and responsibilities as an EVS volunteer.

On arrival

Once you have arrived in the UK, you will gather in Brighton with volunteers from other countries and be welcomed by the team. You'll be introduced to British life, the British Red Cross, and some of the issues and practicalities you will encounter. Then you'll leave Brighton to move into your new area and your new home!

Your placement

Volunteering placements are based on a full-time, 35-hour week, with two consecutive days off per week. How this is put into practice varies slightly from project to project. At the start of your placement you will have to learn quickly and adapt to your new work environment, but over the year, as you gain confidence and experience, you will be able to take on more responsibility and even design and run your own projects. The placements are flexible, and you will be able to shape your work to suit your abilities and interests by discussing it with your supervisor.

Support

You will have a supervisor who works on the project where you volunteer. This supervisor will meet with you regularly so that you can discuss how you are working, set goals, offer suggestions about other activities and give and receive feedback. The programme coordinator at the British Red Cross is also there to ensure to your well-being, and help resolve any personal or professional difficulties during your time in the UK. In the event of an emergency, 24-hour cover is also available.

The Red Cross element

As one of our volunteers you will spend at least half a day per week (or one full day every two weeks) involved in a local Red Cross activity or service. This broadens your experience of life in the UK, your exposure to the English language and culture, and your access to additional support.

The Red Cross is involved in a wide range of services and activities, and, although your choice will depend on what is offered in your area, it is really up to you and your own initiative what you get involved in.

Mid-way through

By now, half of your international volunteering placement is over. You will meet up in London with all the British Red Cross international volunteers from across the UK again and have the chance to talk about your experiences so far.

The final seminar

Before leaving the UK, you'll get the chance to meet the other volunteers once more in Scotland. You'll discuss suggestions about what to do next and there will be congratulations, celebrations and farewells.

Follow-up

This seminar will take place in your home country and is designed to help you reintegrate after your year abroad. Your sending organisation will make arrangements for you to attend, and the training is provided by the European Commission.

Practicalities

Accommodation

Living arrangements vary but normally volunteers live in a shared house with other volunteers. Every one usually has their own bedroom and there will be a shared kitchen, bathroom and living room.

Allowance

The EVS scheme is a fully funded volunteering programme, so participants receive a living allowance of 135 Euros per month plus money for food and travel.

Holiday

Volunteers are entitled to two days of holiday per month of service. How this is put into practice varies across placements, but every volunteer has a minimum of 16 days holiday during the course of the placement and the remaining eight days after the final seminar.

Insurance

All international youth volunteers are covered by an insurance policy provided by Cigna. This policy is designed to cover your medical needs during your time abroad and is provided to you free of charge. You will be enrolled in this scheme prior to the start of your placement and will receive your insurance details directly from Cigna.

Language provision

You will have access to an online language course provided by Erasmus+, following your completion of an online language assessment you want to arrange it yourself, however, we can tell you where to look and you can agree with your supervisor about how to fit English lessons into your weekly timetable.

Youthpass

Every volunteer will get a Youthpass certificate, which proves your participation in the scheme and highlights your learning and achievements over the year.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for people who:

- > are between 18 and 30 years old
- > have ideally done some volunteering before
- > will bring commitment and initiative to their work
- > are able to communicate confidently in English
- > are friendly, flexible and open to new experiences
- > are serious about helping individuals and local communities
- > are keen to spend 12 months living and working in another European country
- > ideally have some experience working with the Red Cross, or if not a keen interest in doing so
- > We're particularly keen to hear from young people who would otherwise have less access to international volunteering opportunities (for health, economic, social, geographical reasons)

What's the recruitment process?

Interview

The interview is meant to be informal so don't panic! It will be held in English and you may also be asked to do some group tasks throughout the day.

Matching

The British Red Cross programme coordinator interviews all the candidates throughout February and March and matches all successful candidates to a project. Once you're matched to a project, you'll have a second Skype interview with members of the project team – this is your chance to ask any role-specific questions you have and to get to know your potential team mates!

You will then receive a letter and/or email to tell you whether you are successful or on the waiting list. You will hear from us by mid-April.

Offers

You will receive an official offer letter which you need to respond to in writing. You will then receive lots more information about the programme and your project!

Waiting list

If you are on the waiting list this means we may make you a firm offer if another candidate does not accept or if they have to withdraw at a later stage. We would then contact you to see if you would still be interested in the opportunity.

Start date

You will arrive in the UK on September 4th 2017!