VOLUNTEERING: International Students’ gateway to personal and academic success

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Introduction to Volunteering
Today’s Presentation

• Definition of Volunteering
• Why Volunteer? What is the motivation for student volunteers?
• What are the benefits for student volunteers?
• Student Testimonials

• Sources

Youth Volunteering in Australia: An Evidence review (ARACY 2015)

International Students and Volunteering – Research Digest (Volunteering Victoria 2017)
Definition of ‘Volunteering’

‘Volunteering’ is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.

“The provision of unpaid help willingly undertaken in the form of time, service or skills to an organisation or group”
Employability skills

• Teamwork skills
• Social capital
• International understanding
• Leadership skills
• Communication skills
• Time-management
• Problem-solving
International Student Host program
La Trobe University
Motivation

- Sharing own experience
- To gain a sense of belonging
- Make friends, increase social knowledge, expanded networks, cultural knowledge
- Gain increased knowledge (of university services)
- "Soft skills" - communication, social skills, leadership, team-work, time management
- Community involvement
- Gain confidence
- Personal (social) enjoyment
- Give back (to University, fellow new students)

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Gain increased knowledge (of university services)

Community involvement

Gain confidence

Personal (social) enjoyment

Give back (to University, fellow new students)

Sharing own experience
Satisfaction with outcomes

“I volunteered for international host thinking I can meet people and help them, but my experiences were more than what I expected.”

Did the Host program meet your expectations?

- Definitely: 53%
- Yes: 47%
- No: 0%
- Definitely not: 0%
Benefits for international student volunteers

- Local experience
- Improved English language skills
- Build networks
- Learn about [Australian] workplace culture
- Build your employability skills eg.:
  - Communication, Teamwork, problem solving, organization, time management
- Local referee for your Resume
What did you gain from your host experience? In what ways has being a host helped you?

- Employment Pathway
- Meeting New People
- Knowledge of Systems and Services
- Confidence
- Coordination, Leadership, Organisational & Teamwork Skills
- Motivation
- Communication, Culture Skills
- Networking & Local Work Experience
Identified benefits (from Host survey)

Q4 Please indicate whether you feel that you gained the following benefits from your volunteer or host experience
Psychosocial benefits: Resilience and Wellbeing
Social Value

Volunteers are more likely to be involved in other aspects of community life than non volunteers.

- Volunteers (82%) were more likely than non-volunteers (55%) to have attended a community event recently.

- Volunteers (44%) were much more likely than non-volunteers (15%) to have ever provided a service or activity in their local area.

- 62% of volunteers agreed (either strongly or somewhat) that most people could be trusted, compared with 50% of

- 82% of volunteers were delighted, pleased or mostly satisfied with their lives, compared to 75% of non-volunteers.

- People who volunteered through an organisation (64%) were more likely to provide informal assistance to someone outside their own household than non-volunteers (41%)
Benefits to wider community
Student Volunteer testimonials

Ilyas Hussain

Commenced Master of Accounting in July 2014

Volunteer activities

On-campus:

- Host Program S1, 2016
- LACE Program S2, 2016
- LTSU, Pakistan Students Association

Off-campus:

- ‘Angels 3081, a local community organisation,
- Homework club – Olympic Village Primary School
Ilyas Hussain - Giving back to his community
Village of Chitral, Pakistan

www.literoflightusa.org
@literofLightPakistan
#LightingUpLives
Student Volunteer testimonials

Su Htet Zaw

Commenced Master of Educational Leadership and Management

Volunteer activities

On-campus:
Host Program S2, 2016
LACE Program S2, 2016
Connect Leader S2, 2017
President Red Cross
University club
Student Representative and Adviser

School Partnerships program facilitator, April 2017
CISA – Executive assistant
Victorian Youth Advisory committee – Australian Red Cross
Su Htete Zaw – Outstanding Achievements

International Higher Education Student of the Year, 2017

“I strongly encourage international students to participate in volunteering activities and clubs because these extracurricular activities can really enhance their interpersonal, time management, communication, and leadership skills.”
La Trobe University, International Student Services

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