As a volunteer you get more out of the experience than you could ever dream of.

SHEILA CAMERON
OU Student since 2010

Studying: Just completed a B Sc Environmental Studies (Hons) and a B A Open Degree (Hons). Online and Distance Learning MA starts Feb 2018.

Volunteer role: Disabled Student’s Group Chair, Learning Experience Representative, Forum Moderator and Meet up host

Why I volunteer...

- Part of a Community
- To meet current and past students
- To give back
- To feedback on the student experience

My role...

My Role within the D S G is to be one of the voices that takes positive and negative experiences of mainly current students to meetings or people who can help us. Due to members negative past experiences I am often the negotiator for them. As a Group we are asked to test various systems, software and equipment to see if they are fit for purpose before they are rolled out to the students.

As an L E R My role is to listen to my fellow students and take their concerns to the LE R forum for help. As a moderator within forums I monitor to make sure everyone is being respectful and keeping to the Spirit of the Forum rules. If there is a problem then I take this to Administration and am the link between the parties.

It helped me...

- Be less anxious and gives me realistic goals that helps with my mental health
- Feel part of a student community instead of a lonely student studying on my own
- It makes me feel important as me ‘the student and volunteer’ and not as me ‘the person who needs care’

My Top Three...

01 At my recent meet up, a stranger heard us talking about studying, we asked her to join us and she left with a smile on her face and info about both the OU and the Association.

02 Accepting my Honorary Life Membership for Voluntary contributions to the Students Association. It was overwhelming to realise people appreciate my volunteerin

03 Befriending and supporting a student for 2 years and recently getting word that she gained her degree. I am honoured that she now considers me a ‘friend’