A GUIDE TO STUDENT-LED PROJECTS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY
“NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE TELL YOU, WORDS AND IDEAS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!”

Robin Williams
STEP BY STEP

Come up with an idea!

Work on your project plan. Speak to the office for support.

The Student Panel selects one or two projects to go ahead.

Submit an application to be a 'Student Project Lead' to the student panel.

If selected we'll be in touch to arrange your project planning workshop.

Recruit your volunteers and deliver your project!
PREVIOUS PROJECTS

Homelessness Project

January 2019 saw our FIRST ever Student Led Project hosted in Milton Keynes by Project Lead, Sarah.

Over 2500 items were donated by over 100 people at an event where volunteers helped collect valuable items for the homeless. Food, clothes and toiletries were collected in by student volunteers and distributed by local charities.

Well-boxed Project

Dawn’s Well-boxed project sent out 250 well being boxes to fellow OU students over the summer.

Students eagerly applied for these boxes over the summer and received a well being pack filled with support and motivation, including artwork and messages from fellow students who decorated boxes at the volunteer recognition event July 2019.

Student Book

Casey printed over 1000 copies of the OU Student book, written and collated by fellow students online.

The book was shared in Freshers goodie bags, and is available online for students to download.

Students contributing to the book shared hints and tips, stories of their own studies as well as lovely pictures of their study buddies at home! This collation involved many students and all were able to participate without leaving their homes!

WHAT IS A STUDENT LED PROJECT?

Student-Led Projects are just that, projects run by a student, all the way from idea to delivery.

Project ideas are submitted once a year to a student panel for approval. The lucky one or two projects who win are provided with guidance from office staff to run their project as well as a small grant to support with the cost of the project.

Projects should be aimed at supporting a community and be linked to a cause you are passionate about.

Ideas for projects could include campaigning for a cause*, hosting an event, supporting a charity initiative, delivering a class, creating resources or encouraging students to create something which will support a community.

Projects can be located anywhere, as long as the location works for your idea. This means you can deliver your project close to home or at a location which is relevant to the idea.

*the Association is unable to support charity fundraising at this time unless raising funds for OUSET.
TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Past project leaders have worked hard to get their ideas off the ground with help from the Association staff team.

Just one or two lucky projects are approved each year but if you find yourself in the position of being approved by the Student Panel, now all the hard work begins!

Once approved, the office will contact you to invite you in for a planning workshop, during which time you will be supported to turn your idea into a reality. We will give you the tools and support to manage your project effectively as well as helping you to recruiting volunteers if you find this is not something you will be able to achieve on your own (or that you want more people to be involved in)!

Some of the things we can support you with include:

- Planning
- Project Management tools
- Recruitment of Volunteers
- Budgeting and creation of resources
- Spreading the word about your project!

There is also support available from the Central Executive team, made up of fellow students, who are based across the UK, meaning there may be someone in your area to support the project or event.
YOUR IDEA

NAME OF PROJECT?

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - WHY?

ACTIVITIES - WHAT, WHEN, WHERE?

WHO DOES THIS BENEFIT?
Risks - what could go wrong?

Resources - how, how much?

Team - who? Do I need volunteers?

Important dates

Logo ideas
Projects are reviewed and approved by a student panel made up of four volunteers alongside Head of Volunteering. Unfortunately, we are only able to support one project per financial year, but may be able to advise applicants on ways to take their ideas forward outside of the Student-led Projects scheme.