

Strategic European Voluntary Service

Role information 2018-19



Our 2017-18 EVS volunteers – ready to head off to their placements!

Our International Youth Volunteering Programme (IYVP) supports young people from other European countries to volunteer in the UK. We've been hosting and sending young volunteers as part of the EVS programme since 1996!

In 2018-19, we'll be running our first ever Strategic EVS programme, hosting 35 young volunteers from partner countries in Europe! Through this programme, all of our volunteers will be working on the following core objectives:

1. To increase the resilience of local communities by developing networks of local support to integrate groups at increased risk of social isolation
2. To promote the value of volunteering as a way of increasing individual and community resilience,

Volunteers will work in team across the UK to work toward these objectives, with support and guidance from local Red Cross teams and the national Youth team in the British Red Cross. You'll be based within one of our Red Cross service teams – either **Independent Living Support**, **Refugee Support and Restoring Family Links**, or **Volunteer Mobilisation** – and spend 4 days a week supporting that service. You'll also spend one day a week working with your volunteer team to assess local need and develop and deliver a programme of activities to reduce social isolation, promote integration, and support people into volunteering in your local host community! We're looking for young volunteers who are passionate about taking the lead to develop more resilient European communities – we're here to help and support you, but the success of this programme will depend on your motivation, flexibility and ability to take the initiative!

British Red Cross Independent Living Support and Crisis Response

Our Independent Living and Crisis Response 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.

Find out more: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Health-and-social-care/Independent-living>

British Red Cross Refugee Support and Restoring Family Links

The Refugee Support 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

Find out more: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Refugee-support>

Restoring Family Links 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!

Find out more: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Find-my-missing-family>

British Red Cross Volunteer Mobilisation

The Volunteer Mobilisation team works across the UK to provide support to volunteers and improve our overall volunteers offer. A large portion of our role involved working directly with young volunteers in the Red Cross – including international volunteers, interns and university groups. As part of this team, you'll be helping the Red Cross to understand and implement best practice in supporting volunteers, ensuring that all volunteers in our organisation have the best possible experience. You'll also be able to run workshops and events with our university groups and support other Red Cross teams who use volunteers (i.e. all of them!)

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.

Your project

As mentioned in the introduction, you'll spend four days a week supporting your hosting service, and one day a week working with your volunteer team to assess local need and develop and deliver a programme of activities to reduce social isolation, promote integration, and support people into volunteering in your local host community!

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 150 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. If you want to arrange additional language training 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 motivated to develop and run their own project as part of a volunteer team
- > are keen to spend 12 months living and working in the UK
- > ideally have some experience working or volunteering 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 3 September 2018!