

Learning Space Volunteer Information

About Hummingbird Project

The Hummingbird Project is a Brighton based organisation whose services have been developed by listening and responding to the needs of local young refugees. Along with Learning Space, we currently provide 1:1 support, hold a weekly youth club and a Young Leaders' Group. We also actively campaign for the rights & protection of refugees.

What is Learning Space?

A warm, friendly and relaxed drop-in space for young people from refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds to come for education support. Young people who we work with have come from a variety of backgrounds, some have had some education before arriving in the UK and others may have never been to school at all. In our Learning Space they have a chance to catch up if they have missed education due to fleeing their home country or language barriers and can learn more about the UK education system.

We provide:

- 1-1 and small group ESOL tuition
- Support for other subjects including maths, especially helping people learn maths while learning English at the same time
- Support with exam preparation like GCSEs, A Levels, IELTS.
- Support with applying for university or college
- Help with CVs.

When and where?

- Learning space runs every Thursdays 6 -7pm during term time. Volunteers arrive by 5.30pm to help set up and leave at 7.30pm after the debrief.
- Address: BMECP centre, 10A Fleet St, Brighton BN1 4ZE

What is the commitment?

In order to best support the young people we work with and to get the most out of this role, we ask for a minimum 6 month commitment from volunteers. It takes time to get to know the needs of the young people and dedication and reliability are an important aspect of building positive relationships.

What will you be doing?

You will be working 1-1 or with a small group of young people to teach them English or support their school/college work. They may have homework with them from college, or you may need to prepare activities and exercises for them.

What challenges will you face?

As this is a drop-in service, we can't guarantee numbers. It may be really busy or really quiet. Bring some work of your own that you can get on with if things are quiet, and have some fun group activities up your sleeves if things get busy!

The young people we work with have a wide range of English abilities. As such, you need to be comfortable teaching absolute beginners as well as more advanced students.

You will be teaching young refugees. Although it is not your role to talk with them about their experiences, you need to be aware that some of them will be experiencing trauma and some exercises may trigger responses. Hummingbird is committed to working in a trauma informed way, and training will be available in order to support all volunteers to do this. We all have a safeguarding responsibility to pass on any concerns to the appropriate people.

What skills/experience do you need?

Essential:

- Dedication and reliability - the most important thing is that you are able to turn up every week, or let us know in advance if you can't make it. We need to be able to rely on staffing numbers, and our young people need to build trust in their relationship with you.
- Friendly and welcoming with the ability to form positive relationships with young people. This is not a school or college environment and how we relate to each other should reflect that.
- Teaching experience - a recognised teaching qualification would be an advantage.
- Experience of working with, or understanding of the experiences of young refugees and people subject to the hostile environment and marginalisation.
- Current DBS certificate. If you do not have a current DBS certificate then Hummingbird will pay for and support you to undergo a DBS check. You will not be able to volunteer with Hummingbird if the DBS check highlights something that would make it inappropriate for you to work with vulnerable young people.

Desirable:

- Experience or an interest in anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices.
- Community Language skills: Arabic, Pashto, Farsi, Dari, Amharic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, French

What will we provide?

- An induction to Hummingbird which will ensure you know what we're about and best practice with regard to safeguarding and other procedures
- Safeguarding training, if needed
- First Aid training, if needed
- Trauma informed training, if needed
- Ongoing training opportunities. E.g. trauma informed practice, English language teaching
- DBS check, if needed
- Meet new people (we have termly volunteer and staff socials)
- An enthusiastic, dedicated team who will support you throughout

- The opportunity to work with an amazing group of young people in a positive and rewarding environment