

What is the Refugee Education and Employment Programme?

The programme provides educational support and guidance for refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world. It does this through running an education programme and providing careers & guidance drop in sessions and appointments.

The Education Programme

The refugees who come to the project have a variety of educational backgrounds. Many attend college courses and need help with a subject they are studying or with English to help them in their studies, others have no formal education and want to learn to read and write for the first time in any language. Newly arrived refugees often need basic English to help them get around the city and access other classes and support agencies. Some are looking for work and others are working and need help with the training courses that they do for their jobs. One to one tuition gives refugees an opportunity to build their confidence and develop skills which enable them to choose what they want from their life in England.

How Volunteers Can Help.

We need volunteers to teach English/basic literacy to a refugee for one and a half hours per week here at the centre. **We ask volunteers to commit to volunteering for a minimum of six months** to provide continuity for the refugees. We offer traveling expenses and child-care costs. Please see enclosed enrolment form for our current opening times.

Do I need any qualifications?

You don't need any formal qualifications or teaching experience to enrol as a tutor. We provide a training course for new volunteers and once you have completed this we offer ongoing advice, support, training and teaching ideas to help you to teach your student and develop your skills. What is important is commitment to teaching your student and a friendly, caring attitude. You need a good command of the English language and an understanding and friendly approach. You also need to be prepared to work with refugees and asylum seekers from any country.

What will I gain from volunteering?

All volunteers complete our volunteer tutor training course. This looks at cultural awareness and basic teaching skills. The training is accredited through the Open College Network so you can get a qualification as well. You will have the opportunity to work with the same student throughout the year and see their progress and you will also learn from them. Volunteers also have access to a reference collection of teaching materials for tutors' use here at REEP.

About Our Students and Volunteers

Our students come from many different countries for example Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Angola, D.R. Congo, Eritrea. One of our students has written about her lessons;

"My name is Mona. I come from Somalia. I live in Sheffield with my family. I want to learn English so I can talk to the Doctor or my sons teacher. My English is not as good as I would like but I did expect it to take a long time. I have been poorly and this has slowed things down but my tutor has been very helpful and I have learnt a lot."

Our volunteers are unemployed people, retired teachers, students, office workers, people with young children - people of all ages and backgrounds. A recent volunteer said;

"I did not expect the skills I use in everyday work and life which I take for granted would be useful to someone else. I thoroughly enjoy the experience and am learning as well as my student. It's only an hour and a half but it's the most rewarding thing I do all week".

" The isolation felt by refugees makes it even more urgent for them to learn English and find out about education and employment opportunities. Many see education and training as their only hope for achieving self-sufficiency and integration in the host country. Certain groups of refugees, for example women, are even more deeply affected by the experience of exile."

World University Service

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer complete the enclosed registration form and return it to;

**Mentoring Co-ordinator
Refugee Education & Employment Programme**

**Alpha House, 10 Carver Street,
Sheffield S1 4FS**

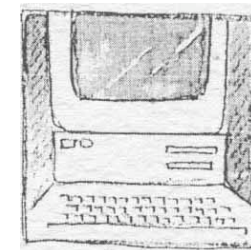
Telephone: (0114) 2812113/4

Fax: (0114) 2812113/4

e-mail: admin@refed.plus.com

Access is possible via lift for people who use wheelchairs. There is phone in reception if you would like to call for assistance to work the lift. Please telephone to arrange access after 5pm

Volunteering Opportunities For Teaching English as an Additional Language



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