



## What is the Children's University?

The Children's University is an international organisation that provides 7 to 14 year olds (and 5 to 6 year olds with their families) with exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside normal school hours. We celebrate achievement and reward participation through our certificates. Raising children's aspirations is important to us and we aim to develop the understanding that learning can be the satellite navigation to better places in life!

## What is volunteering?

Quite simply a freely given gift of your time to help make things better.

## And what about volunteering for the Children's University?

Your gift of time to the national or more often your local Children's University to make a difference to the learning experiences of children – either directly with the children or indirectly in a supporting, (back-stage?) role.

## Volunteering for the Children's University is a win winship – YOU DECIDE what's in it for you:

Getting involved in the local community – discovering your talents – career development – a better CV – but always making a difference.

## What's in it for us?

Engaging more widely in the community  
- improving the learning activities we offer – providing more role models for children and more memorable experiences – making our local universities more sustainable.

## Who can get involved?

Anyone from 15 – 115!

Don't just take our word for it:

*"The cookery project was an amazing experience... I cannot believe how much I've learned while having fun! I would recommend this experience to anyone"*  
Mum and Chesterfield CU Volunteer

*"I can't believe how many new skills I've learned and I'm proud of what we've achieved"*  
Manchester secondary pupil and CU Volunteer

*"Hopefully we have inspired some of the children to be chefs in the future"*  
Business and York CU Volunteer

## How does it work?

As a rule of thumb, Children's University learning can be "connected" to Higher Education provision – in other words if grown ups can get a degree in it, then the Children's University wants to inspire children through it – the start of a lifelong journey to independent learning.

A national 'Passport to Learning' has been created, in which 7-14 year olds – and 5-7 year olds with grown ups – collect "stamps" for hours of accredited learning.

Children's University volunteers-to-be are recruited and trained locally to the international Children's University framework called 'Planning for Volunteering'.

## CU Volunteers receive a certificate to acknowledge the training they have received.

Volunteers then collect evidence of the time they have given and their achievements in the 'Passport to Volunteering', which can in turn be used as evidence towards our own Children's University certificates and other awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the new Higher Education Achievement Record.

## Where and when does it happen?

You could most probably start in supporting existing programmes and projects and as you gain in confidence, branch out into newly developed activities.

You decide how much time you could give:

- To support a trip or visit just once
- To support a regular after school activity
- To be part of a team running a summer project
- To help find new learning opportunities
- To offer your skills and expertise to help the management of your local CU



*“Volunteering can take place anywhere in the community, and most importantly you can spread the word”*



## So how do I find out more?

To find out details of your nearest Childrens' University, visit our website [www.childrensuniversity.co.uk](http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk) and go to your local Children's University page.

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*“Living is changing”  
time to experience”*  
Caleb Gattegno

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