Volunteering opportunity

This important volunteer role links local families with international students (usually two*) as part of a welcome programme at The University of Nottingham UK. Its purpose is to help students settle into Nottingham, get to know the local community and to take part in cultural exchange.

*We have found that many people prefer to entertain two students, as the students tend to be more at ease when invited together. The scheme is open to international students, academic visitors and sponsored researchers who are here for more than 6 months. They may participate as single students, or take part with their spouse and/or children.

Who will suit this opportunity?

This role is suitable for alumni and non-alumni volunteers from the local area (around Nottingham) who are willing to offer hospitality to international students (and their family if applicable) for around 3 hours each term (a total of 3 times per year, or more often if the volunteer/student wants).

Date, time and expected number of hours

There is an introductory event arranged by the Student Services team (meeting your matched students for the first time on campus), on Wednesday 29 November. More details about location and timing will be provided closer to the time.

Meetings are then arranged once per term (or more if desired by the volunteer/student) at mutually agreeable times by hosts and students (for around 2 - 3 hours a time).

Expected total number of volunteering hours: 9 - 12 hours across this academic year

Background

This role is needed to support international students arriving at the University of Nottingham with cultural integration. It provides international students the chance to experience British life and culture, to meet new people and to really feel at home in their new community.

It allows you to learn about other cultures, to meet new people and gain new experiences while showing off your home town.

Role

We require volunteers who are willing to offer hospitality to international students from many cultural backgrounds, to help them settle into life in the UK and experience British life and culture. We are looking for volunteers to introduce the student (and their family if applicable) to typical British experiences. Example activities could be a walk in the local area followed by tea and biscuits, a trip to a museum or art gallery, Sunday lunch, a coffee or a dinner invitation one evening.

Recruitment process and timelines

If you are interested in the role please complete and submit an application form by Sunday 12 November. Some basic checks will then take place and if your application is successful, you will be asked to sign a volunteer agreement, then asked to attend our matching event.