

How do I apply?

Speak to your tutor. They will register expressions of interest and then nominate up to 10 students to participate.

If selected,

- you will be required to complete an application form and obtain parental consent.
- You will need to attend an interview which we may be able to undertake at your school. We will only select 5 students.
- You will need to supply two academic references (we will write to the tutors you nominate, so please ensure that you have asked them first)
- We need to ask you to complete a health questionnaire.
- We will also need to undertake a DBS (criminal records check) . Please be advised that as this role does not meet the DBS Definition of a 'free of charge' volunteer, there will be a fee of £44 to pay when making your application online - we can discuss this further at your interview.

Once all of this is complete, we will need you to attend an Induction and so it may be necessary to obtain permission from your school as this is on a Tuesday morning at the hospital. We will then arrange a start date and ward training.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Voluntary Services Team

on

01582 497384

Or email

voluntaryservices@ldh.nhs.uk

We look forward to meeting you!



Student Volunteering Programme



If you are considering a career in Nursing or want to apply to study Medicine this is an amazing opportunity to gain a valuable insight into life on a busy hospital ward.

What is the Student Volunteering Programme?

We recognise that many universities and medical schools are now asking for students to have had experience in a care setting, and so we have introduced a Student Volunteering programme. It will be an excellent opportunity for sixth form and college students aged 17 and over who are studying AS/A levels, as it will enable participants to regularly volunteer on a busy ward helping patients and staff at mealtimes.

What will you gain from a placement?

There are so many benefits to volunteering with us...

- Experience an informal interview and develop employability skills
- Set yourself apart from other candidates by adding a distinctive element to your university or college application form
- Enhance your own sense of well-being and satisfaction
- Make a real difference to the lives of other people in your community

If your application is successful, your communication and interpersonal skills will benefit too as you interact with our patients and those supervising you during the course of your placement.

When you complete the programme, we will be able to supply you with a certificate and a letter confirming your attendance. We will also reimburse your travel expenses.

What will I be doing?

Volunteers play a vitally important role as part of the team contributing to the wellbeing of our patients and visitors. You will be allocated to a ward where you will help out with the evening meal, providing assistance to our frailer patients. You will engage and communicate with patients who are lonely, isolated or anxious. This can take the form of a conversation, an activity (such as a game or puzzle), reading a newspaper or a magazine. These interactions are simple but can make a great difference to patients, to whom the day in hospital can seem long and dreary. A listening ear, a friendly smile and a kind word are sometimes the things that matter most.

What will the commitment be?

The volunteering duty is one and a half hours per week, approx. 4.30pm until 6.30pm, for a period of 20 sessions - successful applicants will be allocated a slot on a rota. This will usually be a weekday - Monday to Friday, but we can discuss weekends if these would be preferable .

Do I need special skills

In order to meet the requirements of this role, you will need to be considering a career in either Nursing or Medicine. You will also need to evidence at interview, an understanding of four key areas, further information about this will be available from your tutors.

Do I need training?

You will be required to attend a volunteer Induction and will receive training from our Nutrition Nurses, and also on the ward with our Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Will I be able to spend time with doctors and clinical staff?

You may meet doctors and clinical staff during the course of your placement. However, you will not be able to shadow them, nor will you be able to observe clinical procedures - this is part of our commitment to patient privacy and dignity. Additionally, this is not a work experience placement - further details of these are available on our website. The purpose of your role is to support our patients through voluntary activity and enhance their experience during their stay.

What If I don't like it? Can I leave during the programme?

Whilst we recognise that in some instances circumstances can change, its important that you are committed to your volunteering. If you are unhappy or have problems with the placement, please talk to us before you decide to leave. Due to the amount of preparation and support participants receive, we are unable to certificate you if you do not complete it.