

Volunteers required - Capturing Lives in Scotland's Communities Project

Would you like to make a difference to the lives of young people in Scotland?

We're looking for current students to volunteer as mentors on our 'Capturing Lives in Scotland's Communities' project. The project aims to bring together young people aged 8 - 18 from across Scotland to explore and document life in their own communities in 2020 by creating art in response to art and archival material held in university collections.

Through participating in the project, young people will develop skills in different art forms as well as communication and leadership skills. For many participants it will be their first introduction to the University and we hope that it will inspire them to study here in future.

Young people who participate in the project will have the opportunity to gain an Arts Award (Explore) qualification, a recognised qualification on the Recognised Qualification Framework.

The project will run over six weeks. Each week has a different theme: photography, oral histories, landscape painting, public art and exhibiting art work. Material such as videos and worksheets will be made available online for participants to work through at their own pace. All participants will be put into a discussion group with 5 or 6 others and the discussion groups will meet once a week. This will allow participants to discuss the progress they have made on their activities and to ask if they need any extra help.

The project will run from **15th June to 24th of July** in the first instance, although we may run another iteration if the project proves successful enough.

We are seeking current students to act as **mentors** to the discussion groups to help introduce participants to life at University.

Mentors will attend and contribute to discussion groups, led by a University staff member (due to PVG guidance, mentors cannot be left alone with participants). Each participant group will also have a channel on our Microsoft Team – mentors will be asked to check in with their group weekly via the Microsoft Team channel to see if they require any help or have any questions.

Time commitment: It is anticipated that discussion groups will last one hour to 90 minutes per week. If possible, mentors can also do the tasks assigned to participants so they have an example to show them, this should take no more than 1 hour. Monitoring the Microsoft Team channel may take up to one hour per week, given a total commitment time of max. 3.5 hours.

Person requirement

- Able to commit to a maximum of 3.5 hours per week between 8th June and 17th July
- Be an enthusiastic, confident communicator who is able to enthuse others
- Have previous experience working with young people
- Have previous experience in one or more art forms (desirable)
- Have previous experience of using Microsoft Teams (desirable)

Training

Mentors will be given a mentor handbook. They will also be required to attend two virtual training sessions prior to the project commencing.

Training Session 1: Introduction to the Capturing Lives Project for Mentors and Tips for Mentoring

Introduction to the project, including explanation of what is the Arts Award and intro to online platforms. Tips for how to be a good mentor. Session will be held twice on:

Wednesday 27th May, 10am to 12pm

Thursday 28th May, 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Training Session 2: Child Protection and Safeguarding

In this shorter one hour session, we will go through some basic child protection and safeguarding policies. Session will be held twice on:

Wednesday 3rd June, 11am to 12pm

Thursday 4th June, 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Applying

If you would like to apply to volunteer, please email Sarah sarah.bromage@stir.ac.uk a copy of your current CV and a statement of up to 300 words detailing how you meet the person requirements. Please also indicate which training sessions you would be able to attend. Don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions you may have.

We are also looking for art students with experience in photography and/or landscape painting to contribute to the content of the sessions, please get in touch with Laura if you might be able to help.

Application deadline: Friday 22nd May