



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

WORK-BASED LEARNING

The Politics discipline in the School of Global Affairs offers students the opportunity to complete short periods of work experience with organisations in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector as part of an in-curriculum 'Work Based Learning' module. The work experience opportunity is for 30 hours and takes place between January 2026 and April 2026.

These opportunities are only available to students who are studying a Politics module at Lancaster University and are an excellent way for you to work with a dedicated student to produce high-quality work on a project of your choice at **no charge** to the organisation.

MODULE AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

There are three main aims for the module here in the faculty which address the benefits to both the students and the host organisation.

1. To provide an assessed relevant work-experience opportunity to the students as part of their degree;
2. To encourage the student to reflect upon and enhance the transferability of skills learned through their academic studies;
3. To provide organisations with effective and committed placement holders who make positive contributions to real-life projects.

We have proposed 12 learning aims and outcomes, which we hope our students will meet during their placement. Not every learning aim/outcome will be relevant to every placement of employment, though as many as possible should be addressed; however, they offer a guide for drawing up an agreed programme of work between student and organisation in conjunction with details of sector-specific tasks and responsibilities.

By the end of the placement, the student will:

1. Have demonstrable experience of understanding and interpreting instructions in the context of carrying out designated tasks, and can compare actual and expected outcomes.
2. Be able to show an ability to analyse problems, identify their cause and solve them.
3. Know when to use their initiative and when to ask for help.
4. Have made progress towards clarifying their career intentions and identifying relevant skills that would be needed, other than purely academic.
5. Have learned more about the reality of working in the sector.
6. Have built their self-confidence and self-assurance.
7. Be able to contribute to the recognition of operational problems within the workplace.
8. Understand the role of administration in the organisation.
9. Have developed their skills around working with people in groups.
10. Show that they can identify some of the characteristics and needs of a variety of stakeholders in organisations, such as visitors, volunteers, customers and school pupils, according to the context they are working in.





11. Be able to identify management styles and skills from observing role models.
12. Have discovered more about the routes (e.g. postgraduate qualifications) into a particular industry or profession through discussion with other members of staff.

TIMEFRAME

In these projects, students will typically work for 30 hours with their host organisation between January and April. This work can be done in a set time over a number of weeks (e.g. every Monday afternoon for 10 weeks) or in a concentrated week at the start of the student's Easter vacation period. The work does not necessarily have to be completed on site and can be done in a hybrid or remote way if needed.

The timings and duration of the placements can be flexible to suit you as the host organisation and the student's other academic commitments. If you have the capacity to take on multiple students either at the same time, or on a staggered basis we can support you to take on a small team of interns.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

During the placement, students and hosts will receive support from an academic tutor and the Faculty Employability Team. In addition to this, both students and placement providers are required to sign a Learning Agreement to set out expectations and goals for the placement.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

Community Journalist: working with a local community hub to interview users and develop engaging content to be used across social media and the web.

Research Assistant: investigate cases and undertake necessary research for developing engaging podcast scripts.

Advocacy Assistant: Social media strategy design, content creation and data analysis.

Sustainability Benchmarking Reporter: Researching organisation's sustainability performance against defined criteria, analysing results to identify key themes and trends.

Arts Administrator: Supporting the administration of local festivals and events, including the maintenance of the CRM and project management system.

Easy-Read Content Creator: converting existing documentation into easy-read versions to accommodate individuals with identified learning disabilities, sight or sound impairment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have a project idea and would like to discuss further with a member of the FASS Employability Team, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at t.eeonu@lancaster.ac.uk and l.ardovini3@lancaster.ac.uk. We look forward to working with you.

