

Placements for Good

Placements for Good empowers students in further and higher education to contribute to positive social and environmental change through work-based learning in organisations.

1. Introducing Placements for Good (PfG)

Placements for Good (PfG) is a managed placement scheme connecting forward thinking charities, public-sector organisations and businesses with highly motivated university and college students to work in partnership for social, environmental and economic benefit. NUS will support the arrangement of placements, provide support to placement hosts, and deliver expert training for students.

It supports student demand for meaningful work placements and responds to a growing need for sustainability expertise within organisations across all sectors looking to enhance their ethical and environmental performance and credentials. Tailored student training in sustainability, relevant course backgrounds, and support of NUS sustainability experts will ensure that placement students are suited to delivering high quality sustainability support.

The programme aims to enhance graduate employability skills and progress the social and environmental impact of the organisations they work for in response to real sustainability challenges. To support progression into employment or further study we anticipate PfG being most suited to those students in or entering their final year of study.

Placement for Good offers the chance for organisations to benefit from knowledgeable students with additional training in sustainability to support their organisation in enhancing its ethical and environmental performance and credentials. The programme also facilitates wider partnership building between organisations and colleges/ universities.

2. Summer Pilot programme – How will it work?

This is a summer placement programme lasting 8 – 12 weeks, commencing end of June.

Placement hosts will be supported to design impactful project-based placements. Projects will be aligned with students required academic learning outcomes whilst contributing to organisations' progress for sustainability. This aims to empower students, encourage independent working and enable students to produce something tangible. Students will be encouraged to develop critical and reflective thinking by keeping a record of their learning.

NUS will facilitate a 1-day pre-placement training for all participating students as part of regional learning cohorts. The training will explore employability and workplace skills, sustainability and the United National Sustainable Development Goals.

Students and placement hosts will also be invited to present on their projects and experiences at an annual conference and celebration, which institutional staff members will also be invited to attend. This event aims to give professional networking opportunities and connect placement hosts with talented Further Education (College) /Higher Education (University) students.

For the limited-size PfG pilot we are working with Southampton Solent University, University Centre South Devon and University of Wales Trinity Saint David's. We invite placement hosts, institution staff and students to feed into programme development and monitoring and evaluation of this 2019 pilot.

<https://forgood.nus.org.uk/placements>

For more information please contact us at forgood@nus.org.uk

Figure 2.1 Costs for host organisations

Full-time equivalent employees	Public/third sector	Private sector
<10 (micro-sized)	£200	£1,000
11-50 (small-sized)	£500	£1,500
51-250 (medium-sized)	£750	£1,750
>250 (large-sized)	£1000	£2,000

*All costs exclude VAT; organisations will pay living wage for all student placements unless the placement is credit-bearing.

2.1. Explanation of costs

Costs borne by placement hosts contribute to the following support and services provided by NUS:

- 1 year's unlimited access to NUS' online For Good platform to partner with students on research, innovative projects and placements:
<https://forgood.nus.org.uk>
- Promotion of PfG to students
- Introductory meeting to PfG with key staff member at placement host organization
- Organisation of a recruitment fayre which placement hosts are invited to attend
- Matching talented students with placement hosts (organisations are invited to participate)
- 2-day pre-placement training to facilitate students' transition into their roles as employees
- Catch-up calls/ general support for placement staff
- Organisation of PfG conference/ celebration, including 2 placement organization tickets
- Monitoring and evaluation of PfG impacts (key learnings, social and environmental impacts of placements, contributions towards SDGs through PfG etc.)

3. Why NUS?

As a national organisation of 600 students' Unions, NUS is well placed and connected to take a lead on this programme. We also have a national and international reputation for our sustainability programmes for which we have well established partnerships in the third and public sectors.

NUS has a national reputation for delivering useful and impactful training for sustainability. The training we will provide prior to and the support offered during placements will facilitate students to transition from learners in education to leaders and pro-active employees.

4. Next steps

Please complete our NUS Sustainability sign-up form [here](#). Placements for Good is being piloted in 2018 – 19 so is not yet included on the form, however please provide all the necessary information in the comments box:

<https://forgood.nus.org.uk/placements>

For more information please contact us at forgood@nus.org.uk

- State that your organisation (provide the name) will be participating in the Placements for Good pilot.
- State the agreed membership fee you will pay based on the table of costs above.
- If you are not already on our accounts, please also share your PO number so that we can raise an invoice for you. You may need our organisation name and address to process this: National Union of Students UK, NUS Finance Dept, Snape Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2NZ
- Let us know if there is a best time of year for invoicing

Once the payment has been processed you can then start uploading as many placement opportunities and research or design/creative projects that you wish on our For Good platform. We will keep you updated on student requests to partner with your organisation and for Placements for Good, we will support you with the shortlisting process.