For Good membership brief for universities

Our For Good platform connects tertiary education students at all levels of study across the UK with organisations that have important questions about environmental, economic or social sustainability. Students turn their education into a force for social good by answering and implementing solutions to real-world research questions. Students benefit from this experience by understanding how their subject relates to sustainability, making a tangible positive impact on their community, developing a range of professional transferrable skills, and gaining impressive experience working with a local or national organisation.

By joining the For Good platform, it gives your students active support in finding partnership opportunities for research (Dissertations for Good) applied design, creative or innovation projects (Projects for Good) and placements (Placements for Good) that will make genuine impact to the organisations they work with. You can also promote this across your institution to use this as a platform for promoting internal Living Lab opportunities with departments of your organisation.

Dissertations for Good - Students can use the platform for their dissertation, thesis or research project. Your students can use the platform to find out about topics of research interest for organisations and make a real difference as a part of their academic studies. They can dedicate the time, resource and effort of their research to a topic that offers an organisation insight and answers to some of the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

Projects for Good (new for 2019) – We have added this to our suite of For Good opportunities to give students on design, creative and applied courses the chance to find partnership opportunities with organisations in the community to implement impactful projects supporting progress towards sustainability. This could range from producing materials to engage people with sustainable behaviours; to creating short films to communicate an organisation's work or projects; to trialling and implementing innovative product design, Artificial Intelligence or engineering solutions for organisations. A great example of a Project for Good can be found here.

Placements for Good (piloted in 2018 - 19) – Taking learnings from our recent pilot of Placements for Good training day we have now integrating this offering into your For Good membership. We will only promote paid placements and these may take place at any time throughout the year depending on when students are available and organisations are offering opportunities.

On participation in our For Good suite of programmes and bolt-on training events, **we will invite your students to join an online LinkedIn community of alumni** from our programmes (Pathways for Good). The LinkedIn group is a space for sharing learning, experiences and opportunities. We will post and share job opportunities, career advice and relevant news and information whilst also encouraging students/alumni to use this as a space to discuss and share ideas for careers with positive social and environmental impact.

Membership costs

Membership costs £580+VAT per calendar year for a whole institution. The benefits are listed below:

Benefit	Non-member	Member
Use of the website	✓	✓
Active NUS support by suggesting relevant partnerships	✗	✓
Active recruitment by NUS of organisations with research needs relevant to dissertation interests and/or geographical location	✗	✓
'Living Labs' route through website, allowing academic and non-academic departments to post ideas for their students to work on	✗	✓
NUS staff time on campus to support the scheme (the equivalent of one day)	✗	✓
Marketing materials	✗	✓
Involvement in the shaping of the programme's direction and future development	✗	✓

Promoting partnership opportunities within your institution

Membership of our For Good platform entitles both academic and non-academic departments of the university to promote research, project and placement opportunities they would like to work with students on. These opportunities can be promoted as limited to only students at your institution if required.

Additional bolt-on:

Pathways for Good training day - £850+VAT

This covers the cost of the facilitators travel, preparation and delivery of a day's training at your institution. The day is open to all students from any discipline and will include:

- Exploration of sustainability and students' roles as global citizens and future professionals in an ever-changing world;
- a session on values and carrying them with integrity into the work place;
- project planning and work prioritisation;
- tools for reflective learning for continuous personal and professional development.

The institution will need to provide workshop space and lunches/refreshments for participants.

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https://forgood.nus.org.uk
forgood@nus.org.uk

Bespoke workshop, training or consultancy – contact for pricing

As a member of the For Good partnerships programme we can come to your institution and provide a bespoke day to support the advancement of embedding sustainability and social responsibility in your employability and careers work. Examples of this could include exploring the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 with your staff working in employability/careers; or presenting on how the platform works to your academic staff so they can communicate the opportunities to their students.

Framing of training, workshops and consultancy can be discussed when booking to ensure it suits your students', staff or institutional needs and interests.

Get in touch with us to discuss your options and ideas: forgood@nus.org.uk

General information

More detailed information is sent when a partnership is created.

The student is responsible for:

- Completing the project in a timely and professional manner;

- Updating the organisation and NUS on the progress of the project regularly, most likely following regular meetings with supervisor;

- Submitting their report as usual for a research or applied project and subsequently making the report/work available to the organisations, as agreed in the planning meeting.

The institution, faculty and/or supervisor is responsible for:

- Advertising and publicising the website and specific projects to students, if appropriate and applicable, using the template resources provided by NUS;

- Ensuring that the project is of a suitable standard for the student and that it fulfils the requirements of the course;

- Supporting the student as with a usual dissertation/research project;

- Making the report available to the organisation (depending on responsibilities agreed during the planning meeting).

Organisation representatives are responsible for:

- Agreeing the parameters of the project in the planning meeting, taking into account the fact that it is a student project and their course requirements must come first;

- Providing necessary data and information to enable the student to conduct the project;

- Providing feedback to NUS upon request on how the research was used.

NUS is responsible for:

- Managing and monitoring the website;

- Suggesting partnerships to members based on areas of interest, questions and ideas;

- Providing communications about and helping access learning and networking events and opportunities, e.g. the British Conference for Undergraduate Research (BCUR; www.bcur.org.uk) and the annual NUS Sustainability Roundtable;

- Providing a detailed partnership outline to show the breakdown of responsibility;

- Providing template documents, e.g. for the planning meeting agenda;

- Publishing abstracts and case studies (where permitted) of all completed research on the For Good website;

- Monitoring student progress, collating impact and celebrating outcomes.

Other information

- The student must fulfil the requirements for their module. This is the most important aspect to be taken into account and it will be the responsibility of the academic supervisor to ensure that the project meets the requirements.

- The type of report delivered by the student may differ from that provided by, for example, a professional consultant. The organisation accepts this when they sign up.

- When a partnership is formed, all members of the partnership:

  o Agree to assist NUS with the monitoring and evaluation element of the programme by completing evaluation surveys and adhering to the agreed feedback timeline.

  o Agree to protect personal data obtained through the programme in accordance with the General Data Protection Act and to safely dispose of all personal data upon completion of the Programme.

  o Have the right to publicise and promote their partnership and project (with reference to Dissertations for Good).

  o Have the right to present and publicise scientific reports and findings in national/international conferences and research journals (with reference to Dissertations for Good).

- If no student accepts the opportunity to work on this project, the university/faculty and organisation will be able to take part in Dissertations for Good in the future with different students and organisations, **without repaying the membership fee**.

Experiences of the programme

Student experiences

Students reported that taking part in Dissertations for Good helped to improve their:

- Communication skills;

- Interpersonal skills;

- Problem-solving;

- Organisation;

"I felt part of something more collaborative."
Student

"Dissertations for Good has given real meaning to my University studies." **Student**

"Working for the sake of something greater than my own academic development has given me drive and motivation to work hard."
Student

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- Ability to use initiative and be self-motivated;
- Understanding of sustainability.

Supervisor experiences

Dissertation supervisors felt that:

- They had benefited from the opportunity to promote student research through additional access to conferences and events;
- Students had improved the skills mentioned above, as well as negotiation skills;
- The piece of work has additional responsibility and weight placed on it, so it is important that all partners are aware of this and that the project is suitable for the student.

Organisation experiences

Organisations felt that:

- They had benefited from 'increased insight and commitment' from a student;
- They were pleased that they had the ability to give a student the 'opportunity to be involved in this work';
- The partnerships had transformative impacts;
- They had a good impression of Dissertations for Good and associated communications.

"It has given me the opportunity to work with really inspiring people and to gain a lot of practical experience that is applicable in a real-world setting." **Student**

"It's been a lesson [for the student] in the challenges of working in the real world." **Supervisor**

"It is a good experience that enhances students' profiles." **Supervisor**

"We benefited from a young person who is genuinely interested in the project and the issues facing young people." **Organisation**

"It is a good scheme which allows organisations to investigate areas which would normally be beyond their means" **Organisation**

"It has really helped us to build working relationships with overseas groups and to develop knowledge of activity that we would not otherwise have had exposure to." **Organisation**

To find out more...

Please visit the website at: https://forgood.nus.org.uk or get in touch on forgood@nus.org.uk.

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