



Is international volunteering right for you? This document will give you a brief outline about volunteering with the **Snehalaya** in **Ahemdnagar, India** next year. Please read this information carefully. You can apply directly My Hub by clicking on the Apply Now button on the website or [click here](#). Application deadline is Sunday 11th November 2018.

Project Information

Snehalaya means 'Home of Love', and was founded in 1989 to provide support for women, children and LGBT communities, who have been affected by HIV and AIDS, trafficking, sexual violence, and poverty. We have been working with this charity since 2007. Addressing fundamental humanitarian issues and serving up to 15,000 beneficiaries a year, Snehalaya seeks to provide positive and supportive care for India's hidden population working with sex workers, their children and the many abandoned infants in the area whilst tackling the root causes through outreach programs and campaigning.



Snehalaya recruit volunteers from all backgrounds with a variety of transferable skills and tailor each year's programme to suit the individual and combined skills of the group of volunteers in line with the tasks the charity defines as most needed at the time of the trip.

Your Team Leader is Nabila Ayub. Nabila works as an Equality & Diversity Advisor in our Human Resources department. Nabila has a wealth of experience working with young people and has lead international projects previously.

Accommodation

Volunteers will stay within the Snehalaya compound, which is a secure facility housed outside of the local town. You will be sharing a room with 3-4 other volunteers. All meals will be provided by each day.

Most days you will teach within the school, though Snehalaya are involved with many different projects and outreach work. In Summer 2017 our volunteers assisted with Pride celebrations and took the children out to a local park.

Snehalaya and the international volunteering team at Leeds Beckett will provide all of the relevant training, preparation and fundraising assistance for volunteers prior to departure. The volunteer team will then travel out to Ahmednagar (located 7 hours away from Mumbai) for a challenging and rewarding three weeks volunteering. There is also the option for an additional week of free travel, to be organised independently.

Project dates: Fri 26th July 2019 > Fri 16th August 2019

Duration: Three weeks volunteering plus optional independent travel



About the organisation

They are looking for volunteers to support their English school. Snehalaya hosts volunteers in guest-houses at their Campus and volunteers will work at the on-site school based in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra state, India. The scale of what Snehalaya do is huge, and even though this project's main focus is supporting the teachers and educational activities, volunteers will also gain a real insight into the life and workings of an Indian non-government organisation. Their programmes include supporting women and LGBT individuals escaping sex-work, providing shelter and education for families and their children as well as campaigning for women's rights and advocacy work.

Snehalaya deliver programmes to support children and their families into a better future. Living on campus where a cluster of core projects are located, volunteers will be at the forefront, working with the children from the primary school (mix of private, Snehalaya resident and slum-based children), the long-term care children (there are 300 of them!) and staff at the organisations' Head Office.



Volunteer Role(s):

Volunteers will gain a unique insight into the operations and culture of a diverse NGO covering health, education, rehabilitation and advocacy over 20 projects designed to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children. Volunteering at Snehalaya offers a safe environment to discover and immerse yourself in the 'real India' and understand the issues affecting vulnerable women and children in this amazing country, through real-life case studies.

No two days are the same and you will be expected to be flexible and adaptable while playing a hands-on role with beneficiaries and will have the opportunity to work behind the scenes in our head office. You will conduct group activities with your team but can also work independently on your own projects to develop your skills based on your course subject area and interests, building on your own experience and personal development, dependent on our needs at the time. Over the three weeks, you will gain a good understanding of how the organisation functions while making a small but valuable impact to improve the lives and futures of our 20,000 beneficiaries. As well as challenging and discovering yourself, you will also be welcomed into the Snehalaya family and will make lasting connections and friendships that will stay with you for life.

They have a range of needs which means there is a need for volunteers from all backgrounds – Snehalaya will work with you to identify the best role for you. However, they particularly welcome the following students:

- Teaching & education studies;
- Social work & youth development;
- Law and international development;
- Playwork;
- Sports and PE;
- Counselling and therapeutic studies;
- Arts therapy.

Please do contact us if you have any other skills which you feel would be useful for this project.

Pre-Departure Activities and Commitments

There's quite a lot for volunteers to do before departure. If you are interested in applying, you must make sure that you will have enough time for the project in between your studies and your work.

After your team has been recruited, there will be a compulsory team briefing and you will need to fundraise, some of which will be with your team, and some you will probably do on your own. There will be other compulsory team meetings to help prepare you for the experience. The team meetings will discuss essential health information and lots of other things to help prepare you about what to expect as a volunteer in your chosen project. Although it's not spread evenly, we'd recommend allowing an average of two hours a week from when you find out you get a place to departure. This includes:

- Attending regular team meetings (every 4-6 weeks)
- Keeping in contact with your Team Leader
- Providing key documents to the volunteering team as required (e.g. Passport)
- Completing DBS checks or visa applications
- Ongoing fundraising activities
- Planning project resources and objectives

Key Dates

Application deadline	Sunday 11 th November 2018
Shortlisting	W/C Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th Nov
Selection Event	22 nd November 16:00 – 18:00 Carnegie Hall G14, Headingley Campus
First team meeting	6 th December 16:00 – 18:00 Bronte Hall 117, Headingley Campus
January - June	Compulsory team meetings (dates TBC)
Saturday 11th April 2019	The Big Abseil event
Saturday 11th May 2019	Yorkshire 3 Peak Challenge
Project	See dates below
Optional travel time	You must decide whether you wish to remain in country for one week following the end of the volunteering project. <i>This must be confirmed by the first team meeting in December. If not, an immediate return will be booked and you must cover any additional costs to change your flight.</i>

About the project

Project dates: Friday 26th July 2019 > Friday 16th August 2019

Travel – Transport is arranged for you to travel as a team from Leeds Beckett University based on immediate return after volunteering. Your project fees include travel between Leeds and the departure airport only, and unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions/alternative arrangements if you require another pick-up and/or drop-off point. If you are travelling independently, you may have to make your own return journey to Leeds.

Volunteer support – Each volunteering team has a Team Leader who is a Leeds Beckett member of staff, as well as an in-country coordinator. Thorough risk assessments and careful planning is undertaken to

ensure your experience is safe from start to finish. The International Volunteering staff at Leeds Beckett will also be on-call 24/7 whilst you are volunteering, though point of contact will usually be via your Team Leader.

Accommodation –

Project specific: You will stay within the Snehalaya compound, which is a secure facility housed outside of the local town. You will be sharing a room with 3-4 other volunteers. Accommodation will be basic with shared facilities.

General: With all our international volunteering projects, please remember that we are working with not-for-profit organisations and accommodation will be different and more basic than that of U.K. and westernised standards. Please be prepared that there may only be cold water showers, basic sanitation facilities and limited electricity, with intermittent WiFi access in some places. Insects, extreme weather (hot, cold, wet, humid) and no air-conditioning should be expected.

Food - is vegetarian, wholesome and filling. Please be prepared that there is not a great variety of food and meals can be repetitive and basic. You will be provided with three meals per day during the volunteer project.

Challenges - You may feel a sense of culture shock when arriving into the new community. Volunteering can be a challenge and third world conditions can leave you feeling a world away from home. It is completely normal to feel uncomfortable and out of your depth at first. By the end of the project, we find our volunteers look back upon the challenges as their proudest moments and they feel as though they have a second home in their volunteering country. The interaction with local people and learning about local culture is what our volunteers come to cherish most from their time in the local communities.

Other important information

If you are considering applying, please consider the following points:

- Dress code is very important in this country and volunteers are expected to wear appropriate clothes at all times when volunteering. Women need to be especially careful about not revealing too much! When visiting temples and religious sites there are strict rules about clothes and footwear. We will brief you fully on what is required.
- As with most volunteering projects there are often last-minute changes to the programme, either before departure or perhaps on a day-to-day basis with the host organisation. Volunteers need to be patient, flexible and understanding about the fact that arrangements can sometimes change last-minute and sometimes things do not run exactly to plan.
- Unfortunately, the experience will not always be fun and volunteers often find certain aspects of their trip challenging. Living 24/7 with other volunteers can present its own surprising challenges too, but don't worry, we expect that most volunteers will have an amazing time, and we have team leaders on hand to support you.

Fundraising

Fundraising for your host organisation is a requirement to being accepted on the project. In addition to the project fees, you also need to fundraise £100 for the host organisation. Many of our previous volunteers have had great success fundraising, and some have continued raising money after returning because they have been so inspired by the work of the organisation. We'll help you with your fundraising and encourage you to work as a group. Your Team Leader will help encourage you, and try to coordinate group activities to help you all reach your targets. Previous fundraising examples include cake sales, abseils, sponsored walks, charity nights and even approaching companies for donations to raffle. We have lots more suggestions and will cover ideas in one of our team meetings, and provide resources for you to use, plus you can look online for other recommendations.

Beyond raising money for the organisation you are volunteering with, fundraising looks fantastic on your CV! It shows prospective employers that you have are confident, have strong marketing and communication skills, can manage events and many other skills.

Each year, to help volunteers with their fundraising targets we organise some events. This year we will be organising a Yorkshire 3 Peak Challenge and a Big Abseil off Portland Building.

Minimum fundraising target: £100

Project Fees

The project fees are £1400 plus £100 Fundraising. However, all volunteers are eligible for our Global Engagement £250 bursary*, which means:

Total FEES payable £1150, *plus* your FUNDRAISING target of £100 = £1250

What IS included in your project fees:

- Transport between Leeds Beckett University and a U.K. airport (*based on immediate return*)
- Return flights to volunteering country
- Transport from destination airport to volunteering site
- DBS and Visa checks (if applicable)
- Accommodation whilst volunteering
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner each week-day
- Travel insurance (subject to eligibility)
- 24-hour support
- Pre-departure training
- Branded Volunteering 1 x hoodie & 2 x t-shirts

What IS NOT included:

- Any costs for free-time activities (non-volunteering time)
- Any additional independent travel, food and accommodation costs (e.g. weekend activities, eating elsewhere or sight-seeing costs)
- Personal spending money for free-time (non-volunteering time)
- Vaccinations – Visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for details on essential and recommended vaccination

FEE Payment Deadline £1150 payable

Category	Total Cost (£)
Deposit (<i>non-refundable</i>)	£200
Remaining balance (less deposit) <i>To be paid at least 3 weeks prior to departure</i>	£950

FUNDRAISING Deadline £100 payable

Minimum donation <i>To be paid at least 3 weeks prior to departure</i>	£100
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Where your money goes:

The largest percentage of your costs is for the long-haul flights and accommodation, which often are around 90% of the total fees. We often pay the money for food and accommodation, plus other associated costs directly to the charity host organisation and they do not make any profit from this money. This covers the cost of you being there, for to ensure you have a place to sleep and food to eat, but you are not paying to volunteer with the organisation.

You do not pay any Leeds Beckett staff costs as part of your fee. The Team Leader gives their time for free (using their personal annual leave) and, in return, their travel expenses are paid by the University. This enables us to try to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable experience, without worrying about transfers, directions and other logistics.

*** Bursary terms**

In exchange for the Global Engagement bursary, we would like you to submit three photos **and** one of the following within one month of your return to the U.K.:

- a) Blog *written whilst volunteering* (300 word minimum)
- b) Testimonial *when you return* (300 words min) describing the impact the experience has had on you
- c) Vlog (1 minute minimum)
- d) Video edit of your volunteering experience (1 minute minimum)

How to apply

Thank you for your interest! To apply for this international volunteering opportunity, please complete the application by clicking on the Apply Now button on the website or **click here**.

Contact

If you are having any problems please contact volunteering@leedsbeckett.ac.uk / 0113 81 23804

We look forward to hearing from you!