Edible Uni & Green Impact

Apple Chew - Biotechnology

About your volunteering experience

- I am currently secretary of Edible Uni, a community project at the University that turns unused spaces into edible gardens for everyone to enjoy. These gardens provide free, delicious food for students – and there is one for each college! As secretary, I have currently been organising the purchase of new seeds for planting in the spring, and I am also looking forward to the new mushroom gardens coming soon! I am also Project Assistant for the University’s Green Impact project in partnership with NUS. We are hoping, through our sustainable goals, to achieve a gold award that demonstrates our environmental impact.

What attracted you to getting involved in volunteering?

- The main reason I take part in volunteering is because I love helping others and giving back to the community. As a member on YUSU’s volunteering committee, I always try to encourage others to take part in volunteering so everyone can see the benefits! Making other people happy is what volunteering is all about. Also, with Edible Uni and Green Impact, I’ve had the chance to try something new and experience gardening and environmental work, which I would never have been able to do back home. Volunteering has also been really useful for developing transferable skills, especially teamwork and planning, as I’ve often had to organise budgets and book events.

What have been your highlights/surprises from volunteering?

- I have been both surprised and impressed by the amount of volunteers I have seen participating in various projects. So many people have got involved in Edible Uni activities – it is inspiring to see! Also with Edible Uni, it has been great to see just how supportive the college community has been. College staff and students have been more than willing to get involved, and have even suggested new ideas such as a pumpkin growing competition.

Top tips for people thinking about volunteering?

- If it is something you like doing, volunteering will not feel like a chore or burden. It is such a pleasurable experience to be able to help others and the local community, whilst doing something you really enjoy.

If you are interested in getting involved in a volunteering role like this, or have something else in mind, please get in touch with us at volunteering@york.ac.uk and we will be happy to help you.