York Community Consulting

Sam Crossley (YCC Marketing Officer) - PEP

About your volunteering role

York Community Consulting (YCC) is a voluntary, student led pro-bono consultancy that is run through the University’s Careers department. YCC has two broad aims: Firstly, to provide strong employability skills for students, and secondly, to give back to the local community in York by helping charities and organisations. The projects we take on are conducted with the aim of solving a problem for a community client; one project we are currently undertaking for example is an environmental sustainability report for Fleetways Taxis. We also hold fantastic connections with the Big Four consultancy firms, as their employees enthusiastically participate as external mentors in these projects. My role personally as Marketing Officer is to promote YCC through social media and events, whilst also ensuring we get as many new applicants as possible.

What attracted you to take part in volunteering?

Getting involved in YCC has really developed my employability skills. The range of work we do enhances skills such as professionalism, team-work and communication – which all look fantastic on your CV. Getting involved in volunteering through YCC has also shown a willingness to be proactive, and a means of getting one step ahead. Before coming to university I had no idea of what the consulting sector even was, but through my time with YCC I have gained a vast amount of consulting experience which has stimulated my personal growth. Volunteering really has given me the opportunity to build up my work experience, whilst helping others.

What have been the highlights/surprises of your volunteering experience?

A highlight and a surprise has been holding YCC’s first ever ‘Consulting Conference’. This was a one day event where over 120 students came to see talks from leading consultancies CEO’s and recent graduates imparting their careers wisdom. This event gave students the chance to network, gain info on work experience and just generally learn more about consulting. It was a highlight to see how a voluntary organisation produced such an effective, professional output. Another huge highlight of volunteering is whenever we get to help out a community client. Knowing that we have provided a quality service and made a social impact is incredibly rewarding.

Top tips for people thinking of volunteering?

Don’t be worried about your lack of experience! Volunteering opportunities are there to give you that chance to try something new. As long as you are pro-active, communicative and willing to work with others, you’ll find yourself really benefiting from your time volunteering. If you are looking for consulting experience, or just general employability skills, YCC is the perfect place for you to develop your talent and provide a real benefit to communities in York.

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.