YSIS Case Study

Name: Claire Chivers

Department and year of graduation: Sociology, 2013

YSIS Student Manager 2012-2013

Describe your main tasks as a YSIS Student Manager
I support students currently on their YSIS placement; making sure things are going smoothly, responding to any enquiries and reminding them about key processes such as the end of placement evaluations. I accompany students on their initial visit to their placement school so that they are familiar with the school and can ask questions of somebody who has been in the same situation as them! I also staff YSIS Student Manager drop-in shifts at the Careers Service, helping with smooth running of YSIS on a weekly basis.

Why did decide to get involved with the YSIS Student Management Group?
I really enjoyed my YSIS placement and believe YSIS is an amazing volunteering opportunity for students. I do not directly wish to go into teaching, but I'm enthusiastic about voluntary work in the community and saw this as a chance to help others access a valuable scheme which provides them with important skills and gets them out of the campus bubble.

Were there any surprises?
I was surprised by how much work goes into running YSIS on a day-to-day basis – when you're on placement everything seems to just fall into place, but as an SMG you get to experience the wider picture and see the logistics of it all!

What have you gained from your role?
I have gained an insight into the behind-the-scenes workings of a volunteering scheme, and developed important skills such as organisation, student-support and the ability to think on my feet. Most importantly though I’ve met a group of really nice people who are enthusiastic about the same things I am, and have a great time all working together for the same cause.

What advice would you give students considering taking part in YSIS?
Definitely go for it! It’s an amazing opportunity to get involved with, regardless of what your later career plans might be.

Claire used her YSIS experience to secure a place on the Charityworks graduate programme (http://www.charity-works.co.uk/)