



How to get involved in Public Engagement

By Zoe Bett

Getting involved in public engagement is a great way to learn new skills, use your degree in a novel and interesting way and to improve your employability. Skills gained outside your degree are often essential to getting a job after you graduate so public engagement could be an excellent way to do this.

Public Engagement is really anything that involves using the knowledge you have gained at university in interaction with the public. If you have any ideas then UEA ECO Soc will be very happy to support you in any way they can. Their email address is uea.econsoc@gmail.com.

Here are some ideas:

The Recruitment and Outreach Department are always looking for students who would be willing to adapt their knowledge and/or research into a 45min-1 hour workshop for high school and sixth form pupils visiting the UEA as part of university taster sessions or summer schools. Lucy Nottingham and Natalie Bailey organise these workshops. They would love to hear from you if you have an idea for a workshop. (Contact details are on the right)

CUE-East at UEA facilitates the running of cafes for the public throughout the year and are keen for people who have a passion for a subject to run one-off discussion groups for the public. Cafés usually take the form of discussion groups. Have a look at past Café titles for ideas ([link](#))

- **Volunteering**

Why not volunteer as a Company Programme Business advisor for Young Enterprise East of England and use your knowledge to help school pupils to set up businesses or be a Maths Teacher for Norwich International Youth Project to help 12-18 year olds improve their maths skills. All these volunteer vacancies and more can be found [here](#).

- **PGR Students**

If you are a PGR student why not get involved in [the PGR student Showcase in the Forum](#). You can present a poster, do a presentation or run a Café. It's a great way to present your research to the public whilst also engaging in discussion which can lead to new and interesting ideas that you might not have thought of otherwise! The deadline for applications is the 16th March 2012 and the Showcase will take place during the day on the 20th June 2012. Please contact Jan Burnett for further information (Contact details above).

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Useful Contacts

UEA Volunteers:

volunteers@uea.ac.uk

CUE-East UEA:

r.selwyn-crome@uea.ac.uk

Eco Soc:

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Able, Gifted & Talented Officer:

Natalie.Bailey@uea.ac.uk

Outreach Officer:

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Jan Burnett:

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Is a degree enough?

It is widely recognised that skills and experiences gained outside of the classroom are an important complement to the skills and knowledge gained in your degree.

Why not start using the [CV Builder](#) on the careers website? With it you can record relevant activities as well as skills obtained in your course, in employment or in your free time. This could be invaluable when it comes to doing a CV for employers.

Useful Websites

UEA Volunteers

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/volunteers>

Community Engagement East – UEA

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/ssf/cue-east/>

Do-it (national volunteering database)

<http://www.do-it.org.uk/>

UEA CV Builder:

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/careers/applications/cv#CVB>