

# Student Hubs: University Partnerships





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Contact Fiona Walsh, Partnerships and Development Director at [fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org](mailto:fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org) to talk about your needs.



# About Student Hubs

**Student Hubs works in partnership with UK universities to mainstream student social action, empowering a new generation of active citizens. We design, deliver, and scale programmes for students where they can engage in a wide range of social action projects.**

The need to focus on access, retention, employability skills and graduate outcomes is more vital than ever. Student experience and being able to respond to student need is a significant demand for universities at this time. What makes Student Hubs' opportunities different is the level to which students shape, co-deliver and lead activities as part of our Hub programmes. Our opportunities are open, accessible and designed to be locally focused, with bespoke targeted projects, all structured with training, learning and development opportunities throughout.

Social action is the vehicle for this development in your students and communities. It enables us to bring students together to learn about and tackle issues, to foster students' networks and support their skill development, whilst seeing the tangible impact of their work in the community they live in.





# Case Study: Kingston Hub

**Our Kingston Hub team sit within the Careers and Employability team at Kingston University, primarily delivering Community Engaged Learning opportunities which are embedded within the teaching and learning curriculum. They also deliver a discrete range of volunteering projects working with the local community.**

Our partnership supports:

- The Careers team at Kingston University, working with 600+ students a year to further the university's aim of making employability experiences accessible and embedded in the university curriculum;
- Academics at Kingston University, with our Kingston Hub team using their community expertise to facilitate community partnerships which meet assessment and learning goals of modules across all faculties of the university;
- The Kingston community, providing opportunities to engage with students through tutoring, mentoring, and other activities;
- Students at Kingston University, including our committee of student leaders who receive bespoke training.





# What we do

**Student Hubs provides expert support and additional capacity to improving student engagement, resulting in increased access and participation, knowledge exchange, retention and graduate outcomes at a low cost.**

## Enabling wider strategic goals

We work collaboratively with university staff and students to ensure our opportunities meet and develop your university's strategic objectives.

## Adding value to student engagement

We tackle barriers, developing students' employability skills, confidence and networks to enable them to thrive, and sharing our learning with your internal teams.

## Supporting civic and social responsibility

Our activities see students and communities benefit, increasing your university's civic and social impact locally and helping your teams develop new community relationships.

## Our partners include:





# Graduate Impact Survey 2020

Between July and September 2020 we ran our first Graduate Impact Survey for three years. Our Graduate Impact Survey is based on our graduate impact framework, which maps student outcomes against graduate outcomes, to measure the longer term benefits of social action.

**94%**

of alumni feel their involvement with Student Hubs helped them to develop leadership skills

**98%**

of alumni feel their involvement with Student Hubs helped them to develop communication skills

**94%**

of alumni feel their involvement with Student Hubs helped them to develop teamwork skills

**78%**

of alumni feel their involvement in Hub activities helped them gain their current job

“Teamwork and communication are at the heart of being a Hub Committee member. Taking on a leadership role gave me the space to develop confidence and leadership skills, in particular how to manage and motivate others which even at work now this is a skill that I rely on a lot. Without the experiences or exposure I got as a volunteer with the Hub, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”



# Our value

## Bespoke programmes which meet your needs

We work with you to design a partnership which meets your strategic goals in areas such as sustainability, employability, widening participation, or knowledge exchange. Our tried and tested activities and staff embed within and support your teams' work. Our partners can take a longer term three-year approach through a Hub, or take a shorter term approach (from three months to one year) through a Project. Our partnerships plan for transition, supporting you to continue delivery and providing flexible options for next steps with us.

## Adding value to your student opportunities

Our student leadership framework enables students to develop their leadership and employability skills throughout our programme delivery. We work with you to set our monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure you can evidence the impact of our work. Accessibility and inclusion is key to our approach, adding capacity and expertise to your teams to reach students that might not otherwise engage. Our programmes meet students where they are at, and are actively shaped by student leaders.

## Supporting your development and budgets

Our provision is cost effective, providing the support of our network's expertise and staffing for lower than the cost of hiring internal staff. Our tried and tested programme frameworks mean we can scale activities with your students quickly, supporting your university to pilot activities and support your strategic development, with a range of pricing options for partnership work. We work with you to understand which model of our delivery will best serve your goals, and how your internal staff can learn and develop their practice from our local work.

**Contact Fiona Walsh, Partnerships and Development Director at [fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org](mailto:fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org) to talk about your needs.**



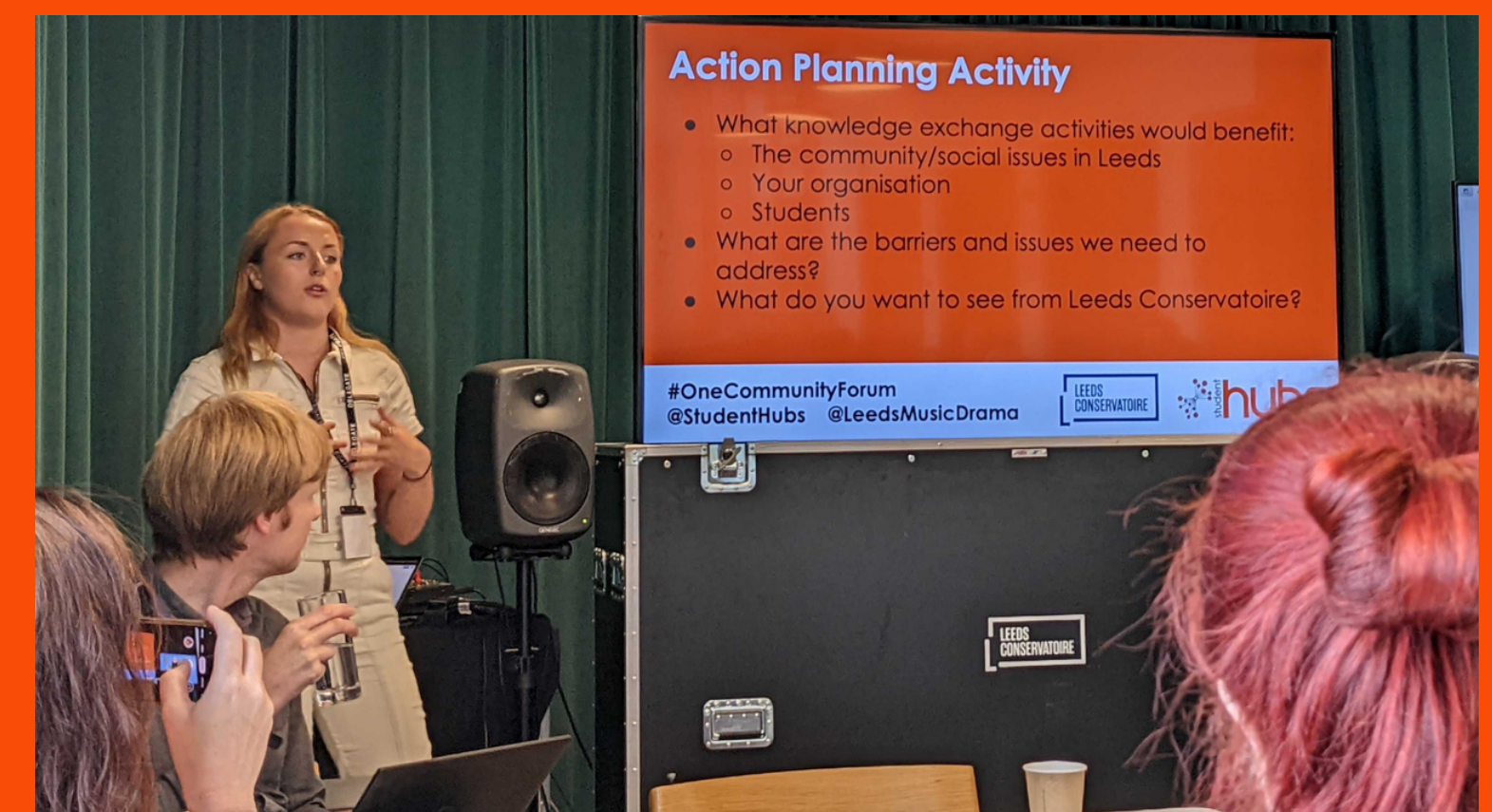
# Case study: Leeds Conservatoire

**From May to September 2022, Student Hubs worked in partnership with Leeds Conservatoire to design and deliver knowledge exchange activities which would support their students to engage with the Leeds community.**

With our Graduate Intern, our Partnerships and Development Director supported Leeds Conservatoire by:

- Holding a 2 hour Forum event, alongside 2.5 hours of lunch and networking, which brought together 17 guests to Leeds Conservatoire. The event focused on supporting participants to discuss artistic citizenship in practice locally, the social issues in Leeds and action planning for Leeds Conservatoire to take forward
- Conducting qualitative interviews with organisation representatives to learn more about key areas
- Securing organisations to participate in a pilot of a one-off knowledge exchange activity in term-time

Student Hubs are continuing to support Leeds Conservatoire strategy in the 2022-23 academic year, with the funding of this project coming through Research England's knowledge exchange grants.



**“[I enjoyed] the opportunity to discuss the relevance of music in the community with others from varying backgrounds and organisations.” - One Community Forum attendee**



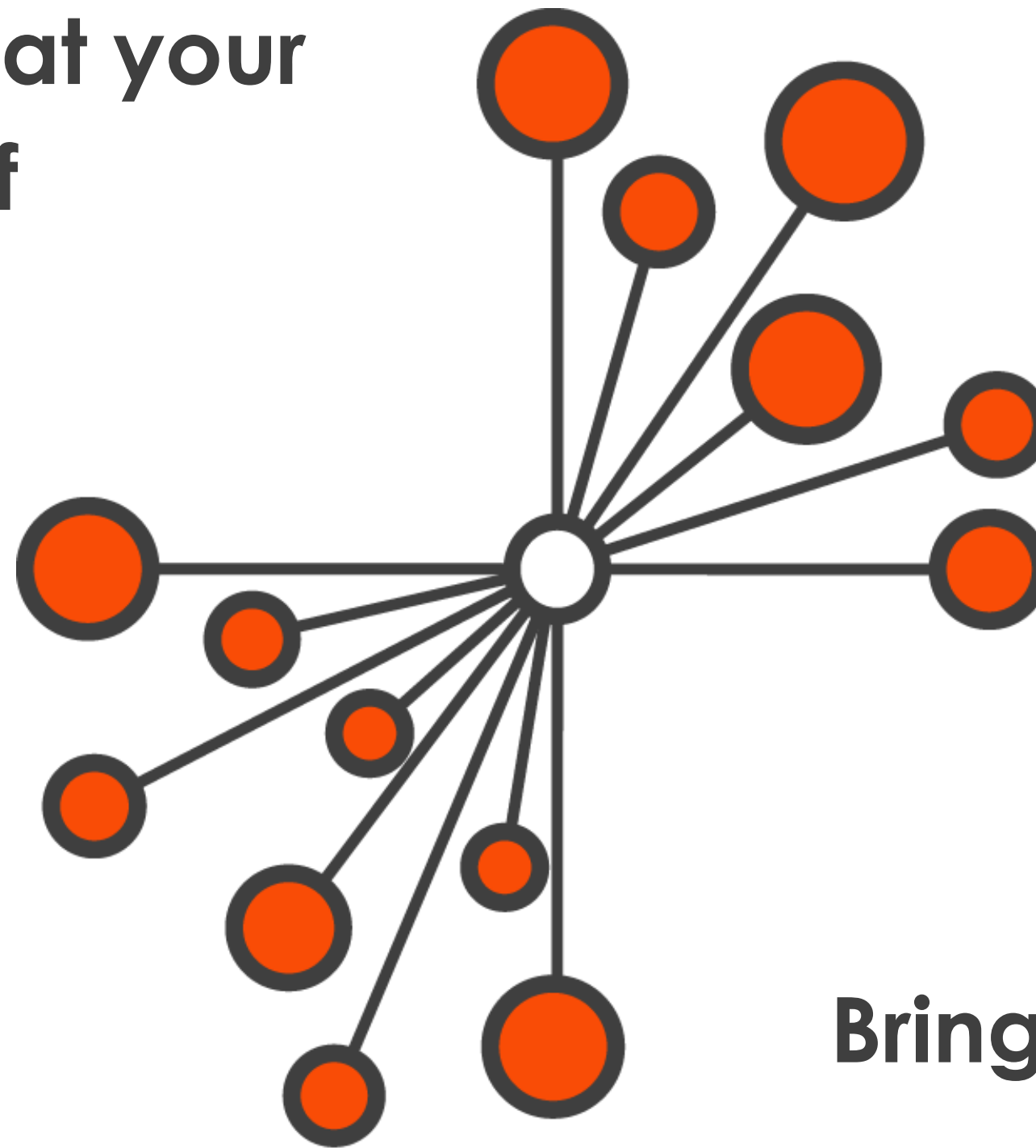
# How you can work with us

Deliver a pilot programme at your university from our range of opportunities

Design a programme with our consultancy support

Develop your staff team's skills with our training

Participate in network events, our advisory board or champion our work



Deliver a one-off event with us

Take part in a webinar

Start a Hub at your university

Bring our training to your students

Partner with us to design and deliver a listening exercise or event for your students and community

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# Case study: Climate Action Bristol

**We work in partnership with the University of Bristol Sustainability Team and NETpositive Futures to deliver a skilled placement programme for students. Students provide free consultancy for local businesses to implement a Climate Action Plan through NETpositive Future's Climate Action tool.**

We recruit students to work in interdisciplinary teams, which receive training from us on key skills and topics including sustainability, project management, research design and data analysis, and report writing and resource creation support. We also recruit community partners for the programme in the Bristol community, with previous partners including a further education college, an independent cinema, the SS Great Britain Museum and a law firm.

Outcomes of the programme from 2020-21 student feedback include:

- 100% of students agreed they have gained useful insight into sustainability careers;
- 88% of students better understand how they could use their skills to support local organisations;
- 63% of students agreed they were more likely to pursue a career in the sustainability sector as a result of their engagement with this activity.

**"I got work alongside a law firm, and it was very insightful for me as a law student. Furthermore, whilst on the committee, I was able to exercise my advocacy and listening skills while helping to mentor volunteers."**

**"Taking part ... was a great addition to my university experience. I really enjoyed being able to make a difference to my local community."**



# Where to start with Student Hubs



**If you 're looking for a way to upskill your students (and/or) staff with expertise from our Hub network and practitioners at your university...**

**Find out more about our Training**



**If you 're looking for a shorter term (3-12 months) opportunity or want to pilot a specific project/activity/idea with students at your university...**

**Find out more about our Projects**



**If you 're looking for a longer term (12+ months) opportunity to develop student and community engagement at your university...**

**Find out more about our Hubs**

**Contact Fiona Walsh, Partnerships and Development Director at [fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org](mailto:fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org) to talk about your needs.**



# Bringing a Hub to your university

**Our Hub staff deliver programmes and activities with a university partner for three years. Our team works with you as a partner, your students and the community to deliver activities which meet your goals and strategic aims.**

Our Hubs usually include:

- 2-3 staff members employed by Student Hubs who sit within a chosen department/faculty at your university
- A student committee of recruited student leaders, who receive training and support with programme delivery
- An advisory board made up of stakeholders from across the university
- A pre-agreed set of programmes and activities to be delivered
- Targets for our local impact

By embedding our team into a central university team, Hub staff are able to work closely with university staff to provide the best service for students. It also enables them to share knowledge and learnings from their practice, developing your team's insights and skills into student and community engagement.

Following the three years of delivery, we work with partners to identify our next steps, which could include:

- Having a fourth and final transition year in which Hub activities are handed over to internal staff and are carried on by the university;
- Wrapping up delivery and celebrating the Hub's achievements, offboarding partners and staff;
- Continuing to extend delivery for a year or another three year agreement;
- Moving the university's engagement to a different model (e.g. shorter fixed-term projects).



# Bringing a Project to your university

**Our Hub staff deliver programmes and activities with a university partner for a limited time. Our team works with you as a partner, your students and the community to deliver activities which meet your goals and strategic aims.**

Our Projects usually include:

- 1-2 members of Student Hubs who support the Project delivery (this could include a fixed-term staff member hired for the role)
- A pre-agreed set of deliverables, with activities potentially including a project, event, research, or design support for your university students and/or staff team
- A final report/recommendations/presentation which compiles our outputs, outcomes, impact and overall findings
- Targets for our impact

Our Projects enable university partners to work with us for a shorter period of time, across three to twelve months, with an agreed delivery remit which might include a programme or set of activities.

Projects enable our partners to quickly meet a strategic goal. It also provides an evidence base using our tried and tested frameworks. Our Project could also provide a stepping stone towards the launch and development of a longer term Hub with you as a partner.

## **Programmes**

We deliver a programme from our portfolio of activities across our Hub network.

## **Activity/Event**

We deliver a set of activities or event using our expertise to support your strategic needs.

## **Co-creation**

We support your team to design an activity/programme as co-creators, not delivery partners.



# Bringing Training to your university

**Our Hub staff deliver training for students and/or staff to support your development needs, using our wide portfolio of training from our 15 years of expertise and experience with students, graduates and communities.**

**“The innovative, interactive and enjoyable training sessions have been essential to the success of the leadership programme. Working with Student Hubs has enabled us to offer a wide range of skills sessions to students who have given us positive feedback about how much they take from the sessions into future employment and careers.”**

**“Great session - engaging, fast-paced, much more efficient than most training I’ve had.”**

Our background in designing and delivering in-curricular and extracurricular activities and training programmes for students, graduates and third sector staff means we are able to support your students or teams' development with a variety of sessions.

Popular training for students includes topics on: leadership; volunteer management; basic project and skill development (e.g. public speaking, project and time management); employability; and more.

Popular training for staff includes topics on: leadership; communication; line management; volunteer and student engagement; social action; innovation; accessible communications; equity, diversity and inclusion; and more.

Ask our Partnerships and Development Director for our training brochure to read more about our offers.



# Case Study: Invent Plus

**Invent Plus developed as a Southampton Hub programme based at the University of Southampton. Students wanted to scale practical workshops in schools to spark a passion in pupils for science and engineering.**

Using our established school partnerships and incubation framework, we supported volunteers to design and scale the programme, which has engaged 29 student volunteers and 360 school pupils across Southampton since it was launched in 2018-19.

**"Working with the Hub has greatly enhanced my experience at the university. I have been able to add a lot of skills to my CV [and] have learned a lot about how to work in teams and how to communicate effectively. Personally, I have particularly enjoyed the friendships I was able to build with other volunteers. We were able to build a tight-knit group among the volunteers which made our work so much more fun and made my university experience a lot better."**





# Our partners' perspective

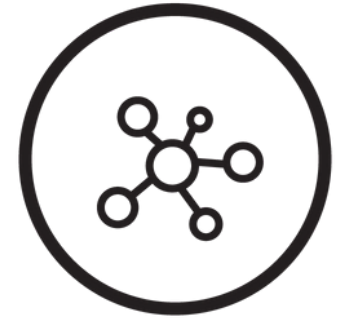
**“[The Hub is] broad, its open, and they look at a whole range of different activities. [The Hub offers] something for most people, and there’s a golden thread which runs through these things as we’re providing threads for students to learn and do things. It’s a local solution. The social value of what Student Hubs do and social involvement [for students] is the key element. It’s giving students learning opportunities around sustainability, around going to work, simply going into a business and understanding how a business operates is useful experience.”**

**Martin Wiles, Head of Sustainability, University of Bristol partner**

**“The value [the Hub] adds is that students support students, which is really key. [The Hub] provides the dialogue with students and university, and students and the young people and communities. Another benefit is being a good partnership and getting to know the community that we serve well, as in our partnership there is a range of projects [which] Student Hubs have been able to do and all the other activities are all there. The partnership enables us to support strategic vision around civic university. It’s a multi-faceted collaboration and partnership which is ever evolving.”**

**Trish Nicolaides, Head of Lifecycle, University of Southampton partner**

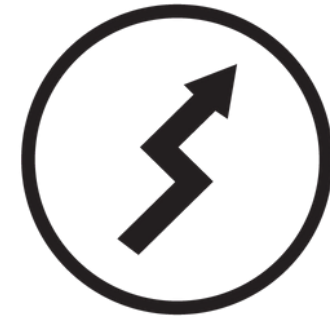
# Our 2021-22 impact



## Experience

**90%**

of students agreed their university experience was enhanced by taking part in Hub activities



## Professional skills

**92%**

of students participating in the Social Innovation Programme agreed they developed professional skills from this activity



## Engagement

**1313**

students took part in one of our social action opportunities both extracurricular and in-curricular



## Wellbeing

**77%**

of students agreed that being involved in their Hub activity has enhanced their wellbeing

“It’s definitely made me enjoy university more. Having something different from lectures and seminars to do each week and to focus my mind on a different challenge. It’s also made me more organised with planning my uni work and working in my part time job.”

“The school I volunteered at... walking there each week meant I got to explore another area of Bristol outside the ‘student bubble’... I have also met a wide range of people that I wouldn’t have usually met as a student and their perspectives have broadened my university experience.”



# Contact us

If you would like to:

Enquire about  
our Hub and  
Project  
partnerships

Book training  
for your  
university  
students or  
staff

Find out more  
about our  
network and  
what we do

**Email:** [info@studenthubs.org](mailto:info@studenthubs.org)

**Website:** [www.studenthubs.org](http://www.studenthubs.org)

**Social media:** Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn by searching StudentHubs



Contact Fiona Walsh, Partnerships and Development Director at [fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org](mailto:fiona.walsh@studenthubs.org) to talk about your needs.