

## Service Learning Student Expectations

The tasks that service learning students are asked to undertake at their placements are varied. This will depend on students' skills and abilities, but it will also depend heavily on the needs of the organization. Some of the tasks that students might undertake include research and report writing, marketing, public and media relations, community outreach and campaigning, event planning, fundraising, general office administration, web and publications development, observing and assisting with client care, assisting with casework administration and acting as a tutor or teaching assistant.



Foundation for  
International  
Education

For more information, please contact us at:

*Foundation for International Education*

114 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4ES

Tel: 011-44-207-591-7750

Email: [studyabroad@fie.org.uk](mailto:studyabroad@fie.org.uk)

Website: [www.fie.org.uk](http://www.fie.org.uk)

## *Service Learning Sites*

FIE works with a range of organizations that are working toward goals associated with achieving public good. These organizations will have as their mission (stated or implied) one of the following: to effect, inform, support or facilitate social or environmental change; to manage, protect or develop social, cultural or environmental resources; to promote social justice, cultural diversity or social awareness; to achieve positive impact in the local, national or global community, either directly or indirectly. Appropriate sites will include both public and private agencies, community groups, registered charities, social enterprise and other non-profit organizations.

These organizations represent a wide range of issues and areas of social concern. For example, FIE works with organizations focusing on the following areas:

- Refugee issues
- Housing/homelessness
- Heritage/arts organizations
- Women's issues
- Poverty
- Environment/sustainability
- Substance abuse/addiction
- Mental health
- Disability
- Gay/Lesbian issues
- Ethnic/racial/religious diversity
- Human rights/conflict resolution
- Education
- Youth/children's issues
- Community regeneration
- Prisoner welfare/crime reduction

## Standard Semester Program Structure

The two-phase semester incorporates 14 weeks of study with an FIE Key Course on an aspect of British life, elective courses and the ISLC.

### *Phase 1: (6 weeks)*

Key Course and electives  
Social welfare in the UK  
ISLC seminars begin

### *Phase 2: (8 weeks)*

Service Learning Placement  
ISLC seminars continue



## *Service Learning in London*

FIE Semester Academic Program

## Service Learning at FIE

FIE's Service Learning semester pathway offers a special kind of opportunity for student academic engagement. Combining specialized study components with work-based placements, Service Learning at FIE has the following key objectives:

- To facilitate understanding of social provision in the UK .
- To assist in the development of a sense of civic awareness, social responsibility and global citizenship.
- To build transferable job skills.
- To develop increased cultural awareness and competence.

### What is Service Learning?

Service learning is a form of experiential education in which students participate in work-based learning with organizations whose ultimate goals are to achieve public good. This experience is brought back into the classroom where learning goals include the development of civic awareness, social responsibility and global citizenship.

zanship are fostered through sharing, reflection and analysis.

The crucial difference between service learning and volunteerism is the opportunity to discuss, reflect and analyze the experience in an academic setting and work towards learning objectives. There will be more structure and formality in the placement than in many volunteering opportunities, and students must participate in the placement for a set number of days/hours in order to achieve optimal learning and to receive full credit for the experience.

Although – unlike an internship – the primary focus is on learning through serving and not on direct career development, this does not mean that students will not benefit enormously from the experience. Service learning students have the opportunity to gain insight into possible careers, develop intercultural and professional skills, and develop increased personal awareness. It is not uncommon to hear students comment that they get out of the experience more than they could possibly give.



## Key Program Elements

FIE's Service Learning program pathway is based on three key elements:

### *Preparation*

As in any cross-cultural experience, this is crucial. Preparation happens in two stages: orientation to the general environment, and specific exposure to the issues of working and living in the culture. These stages are covered by a general orientation to life in London upon arrival and one of four intensive Key Courses about an aspect of British life, which is undertaken before students enter their placement.

### *International Service Learning Course*

The ISLC is comprised of:

- Placement with a host organization that is working toward social goals and can support the learning objectives inherent in service learning.
- Classroom-based seminars that allow students the opportunity to build on their

workplace experience through reflection, discussion and analysis. Seminars address topics such as dealing with expectations, the realities of service learning, global citizenship, social responsibility and intercultural sensitivity.

### *Social Welfare in the UK*

This co-requisite course provides students the appropriate historical and conceptual framework within which social welfare provision has developed in the UK. In addition, comparative perspectives on U.S. and U.K. practice will be developed. Contrasting notions of "philanthropy" will be analyzed. The contrast between Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930's and the Welfare State in post-war Britain will serve to exemplify historical similarities and distinctions between the two national approaches. This course is intended to explore current issues in social welfare provision in the non-profit, non-governmental sector.