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2007

Oxford University students found there was little coordination between different student projects and groups which limited their effectiveness as a force for change. Our four founders set up Oxford Hub to tackle this problem, aiming to connect like-minded students with each other and opportunities to take action.

Since 2007...

- Nearly 30% of Oxford students have signed up to get involved in Oxford Hub



[Image Description: This text is placed to the right of a circular icon. This is a plain black circle, inside is the black outline of a paper with black lines on it mimicking lines of writing]

- They have hosted over 1,596 social action events in their home on Turl Street



[Image Description: This text is placed to the left of a circular icon. This is a plain black circle, inside is the black outline of a megaphone, with lines coming out indicating speech]

- The Oxford Hub network now includes 44 student campaigning and volunteering groups.



[Image Description: This text is to the right of a circular icon. This is a plain black circle, inside is the black outline of a speech bubble, with black lines indicating talking inside.]

2008

In response to the lack of opportunities available, we began supporting students to get their start up volunteering projects off the ground.

How far have we reached?

We have placed more than 13,200 student volunteers in the community and we have supported over 1,000 volunteering projects.



[Image Description: A group of six people, including two Branch Up volunteers and four beneficiaries, are jumping up whilst making fun shapes. They are based on a green area in front of a University of Southampton building in the background. There is a blue sky.]

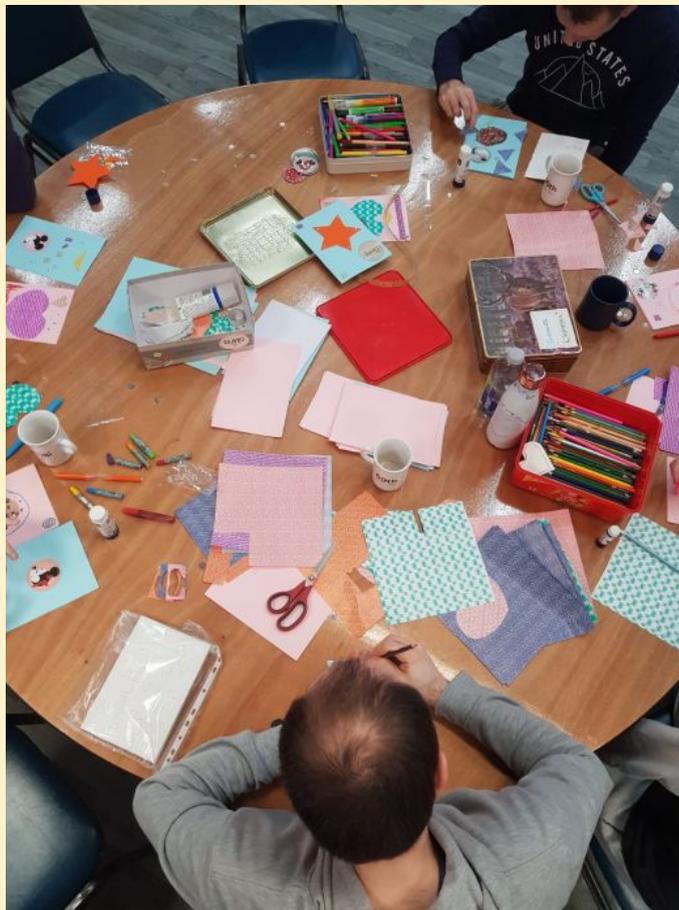
2009

84% of our student volunteers were inspired to consider a career in the non-profit sector. However, students told us that they were frustrated by a lack of routes in!

So, we set up the Social Impact Internship Scheme to provide students with work experience and training in the charity sector. We also co-founded the Emerge Social Enterprise Conference to inspire and support the next generation of social entrepreneurs.

Social Impact Internship Scheme (SIIS)

Since SIIS started, we have placed more than 800 students in small charities and social enterprises.



[Image Description: a table is viewed from above and shows a group of students working on a variety of colourful cards (i.e. blue, green, red and pink cards). The table is scattered with a box of pens, mugs, stars and scissors. You can view the top of a male student's head at the bottom of the image, hunched over, writing on a card.]

This scheme is currently on hold until we can find a way to ensure all our student interns can receive minimum wage during their internships.

Emerge Social Enterprise Conference



[Image Description: This image displays a lecture hall filled with students working on orange work books. There is a large pillar that splits the top and bottom of the room on the left hand side of the image.]

Link it to an external page:

<https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/research/centres-and-initiatives/skoll-centre-social-entrepreneurship>

2010

With Hubs popping up across the UK, it was clear that something was working! When you bring together a community of students wanting to create positive change, you start to change the culture of the universities themselves.

We wanted to celebrate this impact, so we set up the Vice-Chancellor's awards for exceptional student social leaders, currently running in Cambridge Hub.

Celebrating our Students

We ran the Social Leadership Award, which recognises students that showed dedication to social action and learning about social issues.



[Image Description: This image is set in a classroom and is focused on one of the rows of students sitting down. There are two students laughing, one woman is leaning on the others shoulder as she laughs. Further along the row (moving to the right of the image) there are two more students having a discussion over a piece of paper. There is one final student at the end of the row looking down at her phone.]

92% of students in our network are more motivated to get involved in social action than previously.

2011

67% of our students plan to take further action in support of a cause that they care about! It is vital that students developed skills they need to run sustainable and effective projects in order to achieve long-term change.

Alongside ongoing training opportunities, we organised the first student-led Impact Conference, engaging and training students nationwide. The **Turl Street Kitchen** was set up as a social enterprise to promote the sustainability of our own organisation in Oxford.

Turl Street Kitchen

The Turl Street Kitchen and Tower House guest house are our sister social business. Based in our founding city, Oxford, Turl Street Kitchen is committed to “**good food doing good**” and providing a social space for social change for the local community.

2012

By now, we were better able to provide high-quality, tailored support for student social innovators and promote critical engagement with social and environmental issues amongst students.

So we launched our **Schools Plus Programme** as a pioneer in student volunteering and organised the first HubWorks Bootcamp for student social innovators!

Schools Plus

Schools Plus tackles educational disadvantage by supporting student volunteers to act as mentors/tutors in schools that have a high proportion of students on Pupil Premium and free school meals.

In 2018-19, we reached over 700 pupils and had over 330 student volunteers!



[Image Description: A Schools Plus volunteer and a student beneficiary are sat at a table in a classroom. The volunteer is turning the page of a book the student is reading from. In the background there is a computer and shelves with the classroom resources on. In the bottom right hand corner of the image is another student reading a pamphlet.]

2013

We began our partnership with the National Union of Students (NUS), coming together to run **Student Volunteering Week**, a nationwide celebration of the impact that students can have in their communities.

We also launched our second long-term volunteering project, Link Ages!

Student Volunteering Week

Since it started over **5,000 Student Volunteering Week (SVW) events have taken place**, with thousands of students volunteering. SVW has been featured on BBC Radio 1, The Guardian, Times Higher Education and Pioneers Post.

LinkAges

LinkAges is our intergenerational project which aims to tackle social isolation in the older community.

In 2018-19...

- **124 volunteers** participated in LinkAGes across Bristol and Winchester Hub
- Over 250 older people had interactions and were positively impacted by our volunteers.

2014

We launched new Hubs in Winchester and Kingston, increasing our reach and engagement in student social action and moving into more non-Russell Group universities. Winchester and Kingston were our first university requested Hubs - still student led but offering programmes that help the respective university or students' union enhance areas of delivery. Our Hubs across England had reached over 30,000 students! We also piloted a new skilled placement: the **Social Innovation Programme**.

Kingston Hub

Kingston University approached Student Hubs and launched a new hub, focusing on widening participation and volunteering! Currently, they offer four long-term volunteering opportunities, one skilled placement and are the only hub to run Service Learning, our in-curriculum programme!

In 2018-19...

- We trained 1,090 students
- We had 277 students take part in the programmes
- Supported and launched three new projects!

Winchester Hub

The University of Winchester approached Student Hubs in 2013 to launch a new hub, focusing on practical volunteering to develop skills and become more embedded in the community.

Since then, Winchester Hub has run four long-term volunteering projects; Schools Plus, LinkAges, Youth Theatre and Woolly Matters! They also run social enterprise work with their unique programme, Pioneer. In 2019, Winchester Hub expanded again to include the Social Innovation Programme!

In 2018-19...

- 90% of students said that their university experience was enhanced
- We supported 16 core community partners
- 266 students took part in key social action activities

Social Innovation Programme



[Image Description: Four students are sitting around a classroom table. One student with silver coloured hair is pointing towards a piece of paper on the table which all four students are looking at. The woman in the right hand side of the table in a yellow shirt has one hand moving round her hair.]

The Social Innovation Programme (SIP) brings university students together to work in a team and address real-life challenges, acting as external consultants to a local third sector organisation.

In 2018-19 SIP supported **233 student volunteers to support 41 local organisations** in Bristol, Cambridge and Kingston. It is continuing to grow and in 2019-20, it has been brought to Winchester Hub!

2015

We launched our new five-year strategy, as well as our **Theory of Change**. The two together enabled us to think longer-term about our growth, activities and impact. We also moved to a ‘double benefit model, which ensured that our activities have a positive impact on both students and communities.

Our Theory of Change



[Image Description: The image highlights our theory of change. Text at the top reads “At STUDENT HUBS we believe that when students are SUPPORTED to...” . This is followed by a circle diagram with three points 1. DO something to tackle social challenges, 2. CONNECT with each other and 3. LEARN about issues. These have arrows showing they interact with each other. To the right of the image there are two arrows with the text “IMPACT” written inside. These arrows point to 1. COMMUNITIES BENEFIT from student social action (which has an image of a house with an orange roof and a tree with orange leaves) and 2. STUDENTS DEVELOP skills and insights into social issues (this is next to an image of an orange light bulb turned on). A third orange arrow with the text “FUTURE” points to a university graduation cap and the orange text “students leave university and become ACTIVE CITIZENS FOR LIFE.”]

Our Double Benefit Model

To watch the video of our Double Benefit Model, please click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s98vYDzqhNY>

2016

25% of students who participated in Hub programmes this academic year had never been involved in social action! The Social Innovation Programme was launched in Bristol and Kingston hub, bringing it to five hubs across the network.

2017

Our skilled placement programmes had been such a success that we piloted **Impact Labs in Cambridge Hub**.

LinkAges received a multi-grant from the Henry Smith Charity to be set up in Bristol Hub! A fantastic year for intergenerational volunteering experiences.

How are we doing?

To watch the video of our impact during 2016 to 2017, please click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQNqVe5mgLA>

Impact Labs

In Impact Labs, students work in teams to support local charities with impact and evaluation challenges.



[Image Description: A white male student in a black suit with a white shirt and black bow tie is smiling directly at the camera. The background is of a forestry area in Cambridge.]

“Two primary reasons drove my interest in this project, to understand what impact is and how we can measure it, and to understand more about the social issues in the local community at Cambridge. Impact is a term that gets thrown around academia without many really knowing what it means, and it is quickly growing to be an

intricate portion of most funding applications. This programme was a great opportunity to see impact first hand in an environment that contributes something greater to community. Additionally, I was highly interested by the projects involving at-risk youth as this is very relevant to my interest.” - Patrick McClanahan, Student Volunteer.

2018

A massive **573 students volunteered in Schools Plus** this year!

We also launched two new programmes! Our **Sport England-funded Active programmes** in Southampton and Oxford Hub brought physical activity, extra-curricular opportunities and student mentors to disadvantaged young people. **Engage for Change**, in Cambridge Hub, provided incubation support and developed the skills and community of changemakers tackling environmental and sustainability issues at the university.

Active Programmes

Branch Up provides extra-curricular sports and cultural activity days on Saturdays for children ages 7-11. Each child is paired with a volunteer who acts as a mentor and positive role model throughout the day. In 2018-19 **58 volunteers built relationships with 72 young people** through Branch Up and Branch Up Active.

Empower provides 1-on-1 mentoring for 11-15 year olds for six week periods. During these sessions young people are partnered with a volunteer who supports them to try new activities and sports through structured discussions and mentoring exercises. In 2018-19, **51 volunteers mentored 77 young people** through Empower and Empower Active.

Engage for Change

This is a programme designed for people who wanted to learn to make change happen. It encourages participants to have conversations, trial and apply the knowledge and techniques they learn to ultimately make the University a better place.

“Engage for Change inspired me to get involved and showed me that it’s possible to get things done if you’re organised and have a good plan. It’s really a programme that keeps on giving, mostly in terms of tangible things like attitude and mindset and how you approach relationships with others - all things that you don’t really get trained in specifically in a usual job but that are invaluable skills to cultivate as a working professional.” - Izzy, Student Volunteer

2019

Our active programmes were a big success and scaled to Bristol Hub! We also piloted two more programmes: **Service Learning** in Kingston Hub and the **Hiraeth Project** in Cambridge.

Oxford Hub began concentrating on place-based social action, opening opportunities to all local residents.

Service Learning

For the first time, we started developing in-curriculum social action. It refers to a range of community engagement pedagogies that bring together identified academic learning outcomes with practical experience and community service.

In their first full year of running:

- 231 Students,
- 6 Academics,
- 8 Community Partners,
- And 4 courses were supported!

Hiraeth Project

Hiraeth was inspired by an 'untranslatable' Welsh word whose closest English equivalent would be homesickness or a deep longing for home.

This new programme was piloted over five weeks in the summer, providing young refugees and asylum-seekers with opportunities to develop their communication skills, whilst building confidence and promoting a sense of belonging.

Working with the University of Cambridge and local partners, the activities involved participating in a workshop at a bike shop, a local radio show at Cambridge 105, a cookery workshop with Cambridge Sustainable Food and an exhibition at the Cambridge Museum.

2020

The hubs are still developing and growing! Our skilled placements made their way to Winchester Hub, which piloted the Social Innovation Programme.

In Southampton Hub, we launched the **Plus Provision**, a partnership offering mentoring, activity days, residential and in-curricular academic support for disadvantaged young people in the city of Southampton.

Plus Provision

Plus Provision is a local partnership funded for five years by the National Lottery Community Fund between Southampton Hub and Youth Options, the partnership is designed to add additional opportunities and expertise to the existing hub programmes: Schools PPlus, Branch Up and Empower.

Youth Options have had a history of successful youth work and outdoor learning in Hampshire, and we are excited to work with them to bring this into our partner schools. Collaborating with Southampton Hub has enabled them to offer their services as an extension of our programmes when student volunteers have gone home for vacations.