



MTU

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University

Collaborate
2025 Student Affairs and
Services Working **Together** for
Student Success

Supporting students to participate in Volunteer Abroad

A learning experience enhancing global citizenship

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www.mtu.ie



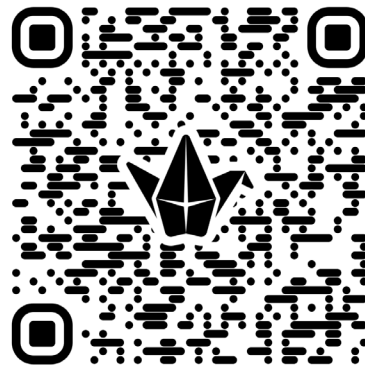
How Higher Education can champion Global Citizenship



The MTU Volunteer Abroad programme



Reflections from the students who participated on programmes for the past 12 years.



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Global Citizenship in your institution?

Global Citizenship

Words that resonate



*Gaitán-Aguilar, L., Hofhuis, J. and Jansz, J. (2024).

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MTU Volunteer Abroad Programme

2011 - 2025



Financial support to students who wish to undertake a number of weeks volunteering abroad.



Each year the Societies Board selected students for scholarship or bursary

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MTU Volunteer Abroad Programme



2011 - 2025

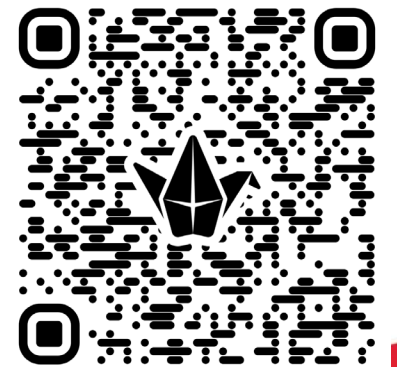
- Centre administration from societies & student services
- Not linked to academic progress or ability
- Extracurricular – programme undertaken during the academic summer break
- Most common courses of participants
 - Social Care, Fine Art, Music, Early Years Education, Community Development
 - Engineering & Sciences

MTU Volunteer Abroad Programme

2011 – 2025 → 12 programme cycles

- ~ €25,000 per year
- Scholarship -
 - Fully paid volunteer programme & flights ~ €3,000pp
 - 107 awarded
- Bursary
 - Contribution towards. ~ €700
 - 57 awarded

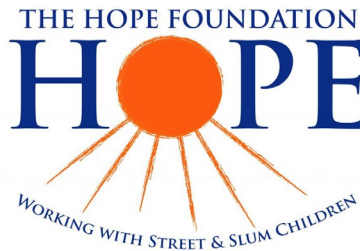
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MTU Volunteer Abroad Programme



Working with sending partners



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Global Citizenship Education (GCED)

Each AFS journey is designed around these six **principles**:

1. Learning as a journey of change
2. Goals-based curriculums + methods
3. Immersive experiences + structured learning
4. Non-formal learning environments
5. Experiential learning = enhanced learning
6. Learning for life + lifelong learning

EILireland (2025),
AFS (2025).

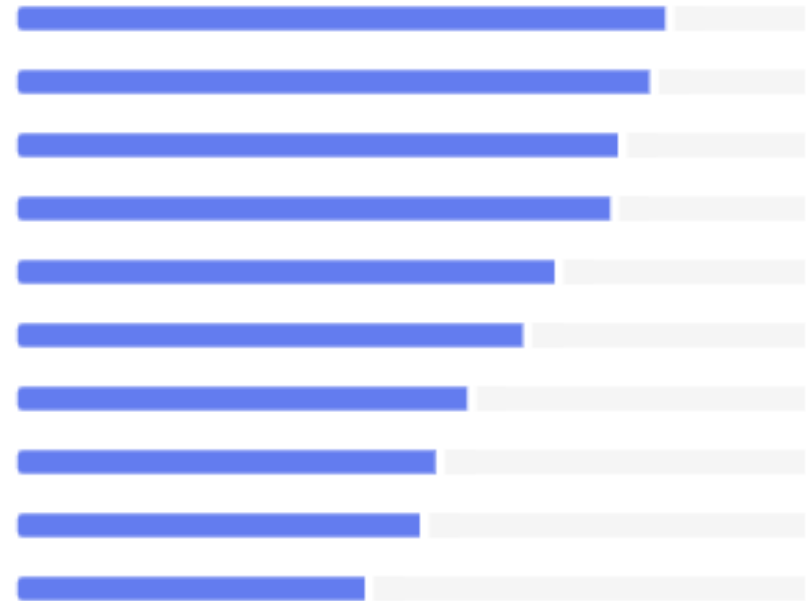
GCED is not a single subject with a set curriculum but rather a framework, a **prism** through which education is seen.

UNESCO (2024).

Reflections of participants

Which aspect of the experience impacted your personal growth the most

- 1 Changed my perspective on global issues
- 2 Increased my awareness of being a global citizen
- 3 Enhanced my confidence or independence
- 4 Learned about different cultures
- 5 Helped develop personal values
- 6 Deepened my appreciation for community
- 7 Challenged my beliefs or assumptions
- 8 Gained skills that were relevant to my studies
- 9 Influenced my academic interests or career goals
- 10 Made connections with people that I am still in touch with



Experience globally

Changed my perspective on global issues

Having family from abroad I expected myself to be more in tune with Global issues, however I now realise that unless **you truly live and experience** certain things you will not know the impact.

It really made me **think critically** on my own actions. It also made me tackle ideals vs realities - relevancy is a real thing and unless you immerse yourself fully, your ability and capacity to comprehend similarities and differences are limited

One of my biggest self-reflections was **understanding** the magnitude of opportunities that are afforded to me just because I was born and grew up in a certain place in the world

Being a global citizen

Increased my awareness of being a global citizen

I think about my experience in Nepal on a weekly basis, 12 years later

14 years later I still talk about my trip to India at every opportunity I get.

Making intercultural connections you can create a deeper understanding of the world, different cultures views and life in general.

Broader effect on MTU



SERVE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME 2017 | 

Peer Talks

volunteer
Abroad 2015

Information
Evening

Tuesday 11th November
5.30pm, Curve Gallery
Student Centre, Bishopstown

Experienced Volunteers will speak | Tips on completing the application form

Programme is open to application from all current full time registered students
Anybody who is thinking of applying should attend the Information evening

Email volunteer.abroad@cit.ie for application form

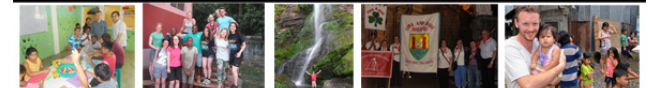


Photo exhibitions

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Broader effect on MTU

VOLUNTEER ABROAD

Kolkata, August 2018

by Charlie McBurney

Inspirational, life changing, eye-opening, humbling and enjoyable are the words that come to mind as I reflect on my experience with the Hope Foundation in Kolkata. I was fortunate enough to be awarded a scholarship through the CIT Volunteer Abroad programme to travel. I went on this adventure with my friend Diane which made settling into our new jam packed Kolkata schedule very easy. I was nervous about going to help the Hope Foundation with their projects in Kolkata because the co-ordinators make it quite clear that as well as a kind, dedicated and suitable personality, you also need to be skilled in order to conduct constructive workshops and teach lessons. There is a big drive on S.T.E.M subjects across education at the moment and safety 'contemporary applied art' doesn't typically fit into those sectors.

I had done a TEFL course last year which really helped me to understand the basics about teaching English as a foreign language and how to prepare for a lesson, especially with limited resources. Apart from my small bit of English teaching experience from last summer in Cambodia I thought I would not have much else to offer the projects. As it turns out I couldn't have been more wrong. The project co-ordinator in Kolkata really helped us to tailor our schedules to our strengths. We managed to pack so much work into our short time.

I can't stress enough how rewarding the voluntary work was. I decided to go volunteering for many reasons. I wanted to make this world a brighter place. I wanted to share my knowledge, I wanted to help where possible. Those reasons seem selfish but it wasn't what actually transpired. Meeting the dedicated team of workers in Kolkata and interacting with the projects made me understand that the happiness, the hope and the educational learning were symbiotic. I learnt more about myself, about Indian culture and about the world than I could have ever imagined.

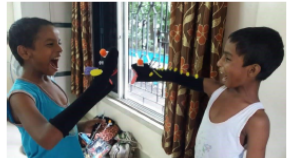
Volunteering is not as selfless as people seem to build it up to be. You give your heart and soul into the volunteer work but you receive more heart and soul back from the experience you face, the classes you teach, the kind people you



meet and the culture you are immersed into. Volunteering is for everyone. You will teach and be taught, you will love and be loved and you will definitely give but you will also receive. Do volunteering for others less fortunate, but also do it for yourself.

I came home to Ireland to dive straight back into my hectic western lifestyle but I will always carry the life lessons and the experiences that I encountered during my month in India. It has made my heart bigger, my mind more curious and has lit a powerful motivational fire inside me telling me to always try my best and to always strive to make this world a bit brighter and add a bit of hope where ever I can. CIT offers this fantastic opportunity to volunteer with a charity abroad. There are a range of bursaries and scholarships available to suitable candidates. It doesn't matter what you are studying, you still have skills and knowledge to share with the world. You could do a workshop on drama, dance, singing, computer coding, photography, film, graphic design, English, sewing, science, debating and public speaking, history, self defence, art, sports etc. If you have any medical experience or interest you can volunteer in the night ambulance. If you speak English you can teach spoken English classes! There is something for everyone and the more diverse the range of volunteers are the better exposure the Indian students get to different subjects. You can make a positive change in others and in yourself. Sorry for the cliché but... Stop asking yourself WHY? and start asking yourself WHY NOT?!

The highlights for me were definitely some of the student responses in lessons and workshops. Hearing students say that India needs to celebrate diversity because we are all human underneath regardless of gender, religion and background really gave me motivation to keep putting everything I could into my time with The Hope Foundation. The students in our classes and workshops had an overwhelming enthusiasm to learn and progress. It taught me not to take my education for granted as many of those young adults and children have had to fight for their right to education.



10 **exonici**



VOLUNTEER ABROAD Mozambique, July 2019

On Thursday the 4th of July 2019, I arrived in Mozambique with the Serve Volunteer Organisation. Myself and 10 other volunteers worked alongside our partner, Young Africa where we found out more about all the amazing work being done in Mozambique. Young Africa offers an innovative high impact solution to youth unemployment. The organisation runs skills centres, youth employment programmes and community activities in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia. Their mission is to empower young people through skills training for employability and entrepreneurship.

On the 14th of March 2019, before we arrived, Mozambique's city of Beira was severely destroyed by cyclone Idai which killed dozens and afflicted hundreds and thousands of people. Seeing this heartbreaking news meant we really didn't know what to expect when we arrived. To my surprise much of the damage caused by the cyclone was being repaired and Beira was beginning to rebuild thanks to foreign aid. Within the walls of Young Africa Beira, there was still visible water damage to the upper floor of the girls hostel and a fallen fence, however much of the campus where we slept had remained intact and almost all of the dozen or so workshops were back to full function.

One of the things that stood out to me the most was the culture of the Mozambicans. Everyone was very welcoming and happy despite experiencing first hand the devastating impact of cyclone Idai. Each morning we were greeted with welcoming warm smiles and a "Bom Dia" or good morning in Portuguese. The music brought our evenings alive, even at the daily assembly there was often a song among announcements. The youth are also heavily involved in sports at Young Africa and the students are encouraged to play football, basketball and volleyball in between classes.

At the beginning of the month we did a lot of construction work building a wall that separated the girls youth hostel and the Young Africa campus. This involved taking down old fences, digging up trenches and pulling up some trees. This was a completely new and challenging experience for me and the rest of the volunteers

as we had never done any construction work before! We got to interact with many of the Mozambican students every day which I enjoyed immensely.

Towards the end of the month we worked on building a medical and counselling centre on the Dondo campus which included leveling foundations for the walls and building the pillar supports. I enjoyed building teamwork skills and even learnt a bit of Portuguese as we worked alongside the students of Young Africa every step of the way. The Young Africa students had an inspirational level of work ethic and were always uplifting and in good spirits. The students were always eager to learn and wanted to work to the best of their ability even if it was a simple task like collecting the sand and stones for cement.

The highlight of my experience at Mozambique would definitely have to be witnessing the impact we brought to the campus through the money we fundraised. With the culmination of all the volunteers efforts we managed to fund new guard houses, a toilet block in Dondo, a new basketball court and a sports day for the locals in Beira. Seeing the happiness on the local children's faces when they had their face painted or chatted with us is something I will never forget.

We did development education in the evening where we produced a video based on Sustainable Development Goal 13 which is responsible for climate action. This was fascinating and really made us reflect on how lucky we are to live in a country that has very few natural disasters in Ireland. Throughout my time in Mozambique I had experienced and seen a completely different culture, met an amazing group of people along the way and I can honestly say it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. It was also quite refreshing taking out four weeks of my life to work on a project outside my comfort zone and detach myself from my close minded perspective of the world. This experience has certainly taught me a lot of life lessons, made me a more grateful individual and I can't wait to do more volunteering abroad in the future!



VOLUNTEER ABROAD 2019 DETAILS XXX

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Photos



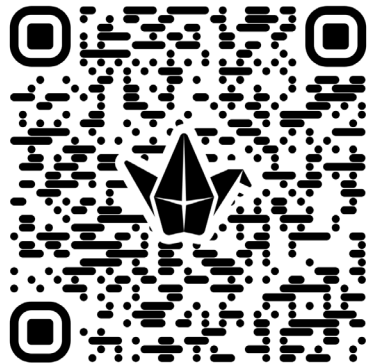
Articles & Reports

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How Higher Education can champion Global Citizenship



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Global Citizenship in your institution?

Further Consideration

The role of Students Services in supporting
educational experience opportunities

References & Links

References

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- Gaitán-Aguilar, L., Hofhuis, J. and Jansz, J. (2024). A review of research on global citizenship in higher education: Towards a holistic approach. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, [online] 102, p.102050. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2024.102050>.
- UNESCO (2024). What You Need to Know about Global Citizenship Education. [online] UNESCO. Available at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/global-citizenship-peace-education/need-know>. (accessed 15 June 2025)

Links to volunteer abroad programmes

- EILireland <https://www.eilireland.org/explore/>
- SERVE <https://serve.ie/education/volunteer-global-citizenship-education/>
- Hope Foundation <https://www.hopefoundation.ie/>