





2023 DISCOVERY'S ORIENTATION BUDDIES PROJECT



www.discoverysvs.org



"Having an Orientation Buddy when I started University was really useful and helped me settle into University life."



"Working as part of the Orientation Buddies project is one of the most rewarding things I have done during my time at University. ."

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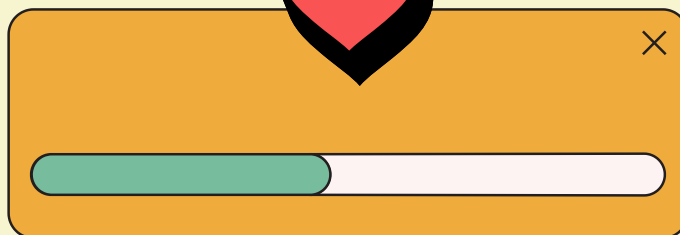
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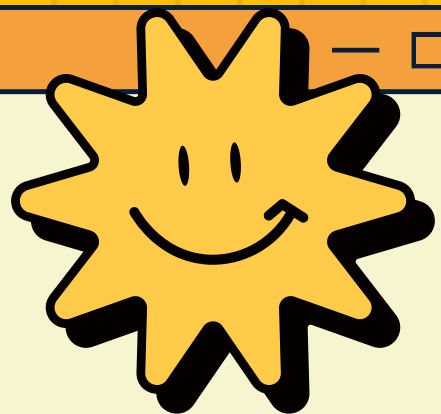

WHAT IS THE ORIENTATION BUDDIES PROJECT



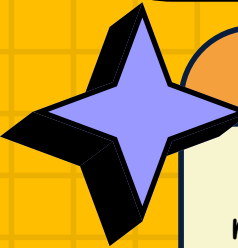
The start of University life, whilst exciting for many students, is not always easy. This can be the case even more so for autistic students, many of whom face additional challenges getting settled into a new environment.

The Orientation Buddies project, a partnership between Discovery and the Autistic Spectrum Conditions Team in the Wellbeing Service, is a project designed to support new autistic students through the first eight of weeks of their University experience.

The project offers one-to-one orientation sessions for students alongside group activities covering daily living skills and visiting local areas relevant to student life.



WHAT IS THE VOLUNTEER ROLE?

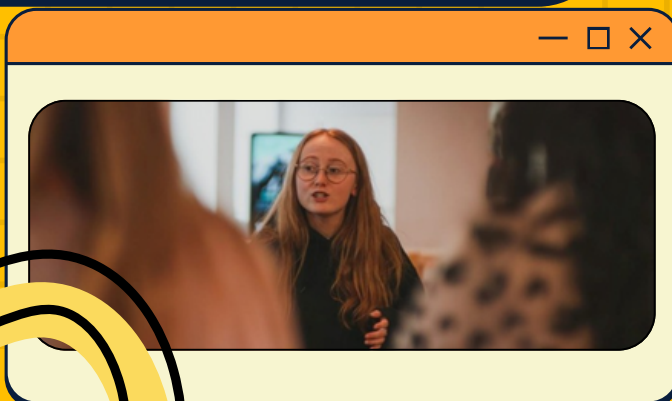


Volunteers will provide support to new autistic students on either a one-to-one basis, following an orientation plan arranged with the new student.

Support sessions could include:

- Identifying quiet spaces on campus
- Learning to use the library facilities
- Looking around campus shops and food outlets
- Understanding University timetables
 - Joining clubs and societies
 - Registering with the GP

Volunteers will also have the opportunity to attend group orientation events and support new students there. These will include practical activities such as doing a supermarket shop, as well as visiting places like Mumbles to give new students an experience of the non-academic aspects of University life.







VOLUNTEERS NEED TO BE:

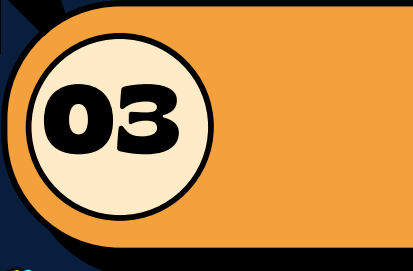
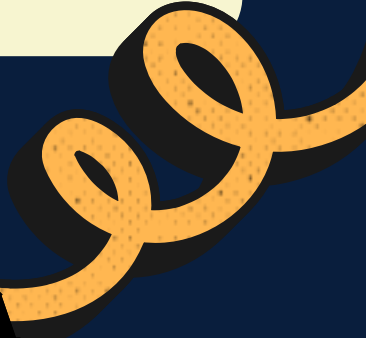

- Current or recent graduates (2023 graduation) of Swansea University
- Available to volunteer in person on a regular basis between 23rd September and 18th November 2023

BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEERS:


- Build on understanding and knowledge of Autism
 - Make a difference to the start of someone's University experience
 - Share your knowledge about student life
 - Gain experience for your CV
 - Training, support and supervision throughout your volunteering
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By volunteering on the Orientation Buddies project you can also gain a reference from Discovery SVS & apply for your Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Award



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KEY DATES




Wednesday 3rd May 2pm – 4pm – Autism Awareness training and Orientation Buddies Q+A (sign up on the platform or contact Kirsty on k.rowles@swansea.ac.uk)

Monday 8th May – Orientation Buddies Applications open go to <https://discoverysvs.org/orientation-buddies/>

Monday 18th September – Applications close

Wednesday 20th September – Training day

23rd September – 18th November – Project runs (Volunteers needed for one-two sessions per week, arranged around their availability)



Thank you for taking the time to read our information pack. If you have any questions please email discovery@swansea.ac.uk



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