

# Critical Practices in Student Engagement

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# The transformation of volunteering

- If the whole world is changing how can volunteering stay the same?
- It can't & it hasn't.
- As the world changes, so do the trends affecting volunteering.
- Similarly, the experiences & practices of volunteer managers (VMs) will also change.
- In order to capitalise on this transformation, & ensure a bright future for volunteering, these changes need to be understood...

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# Key Findings Futuring Volunteer Management

- Remarkably, VMs reported that key five trends were influencing their daily practice...



University student  
volunteering  
**17**



Legislative  
changes  
**16**



Technological  
changes  
**15**



Corporate  
volunteering  
**10**



Episodic  
volunteering  
**8**

**Number of times VMs reported each trend**

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# Discussion questions

- What has been your most effective approach – program in engaging and retaining student volunteers ?
- What were the elements which made it effective ?

# Student Engagement Literature / Practice

- Opportunities for leadership
- Meaningfully beneficial experiences
- Meaningful impact
- Group projects

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- Being socially responsive
- Adopting an interdisciplinary approach
- Focus on Inclusion
- Have centralized facilitation

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# Youth Leading Youth

## Linking

- Events
- Technology
- Keep it personal

## Engaging

- Big, challenging projects
- Unique experiences
- Maintain boundaries

## Belonging

- Shared experiences
- Language
- Stories

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# Top tips

## 1. Group Projects

- Inter- interdisciplinary
- Opportunities for leadership
- Complete / parallel to the organisation
- Opportunities for engagement with organisation
- Learning built in



## 2. Recruitment

- Word of mouth (champions)
- Passion to Project
- Professional but people-first
- Smart digital presence
- Importance of events

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### 3. Engagement

- Big challenging projects
- Unique experiences
- Explaining and demonstrating impact
- Clear boundaries that encourage initiative
- Facilitative open leadership style
- Direct engagement with the cause
- Professional skills opportunity

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- Retention

- Shared experiences
- Language of engagement
- Stories and narratives
- Facilitative Leadership
- Emergent opportunity
- Pathways to further engagement

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