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British Council registered  
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**Global Xchange**  
is a partnership between



Young people active in the community





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## What is Global Xchange?

Through Global Xchange we hope to develop and inspire active global citizens, who will create positive change and build mutual understanding and respect

Applicants must be UK citizens or EEA citizens who have been resident in the UK for at least 12 months

Global Xchange is one of the UK's most exciting international exchange programmes. It's an opportunity to do worthwhile community work in the UK and an exchange country, whilst developing your own potential to change the world.

Global Xchange will allow you to broaden your horizons, challenge your preconceptions, discover new skills and interests, and learn about the issues affecting different cultures.

Run by the British Council, VSO and local partners, each Global Xchange programme brings together a group of participants from the UK and an exchange country. Placed in cross-cultural pairs, they live in local host homes and participate in community-based placements.

Global Xchange welcomes applicants from all backgrounds who can demonstrate commitment to the programme and its aims. All direct programme costs are covered, although we ask participants to do some fundraising towards the cost of their placement.

There are two types of Global Xchange programme:

**Youth Xchange** is a six-month volunteer programme for young people aged 18-25.  
**Community Xchange** is a professional development programme for community workers whose work impacts on young people.

# How do we do it

## Community Xchange

If you work with young people in your local community, our Community Xchange programme is an exceptional opportunity to develop your professional skills. You'll also be making a difference to young people's lives, both in the UK and in an exchange country.

Through a range of activities, Community Xchange aims to better equip participants to engage young people as active global citizens, and help facilitate an intercultural dialogue that will make a positive difference to their communities.

Teams of 30 youth practitioners, with equal numbers from a UK community and an exchange country, work for three weeks in the UK and three weeks in the exchange country. During the programme, participants take part in work attachments, job shadowing, and community events to promote active citizenship among young people.

Community Xchange helps participants to build active networks within their own community and view their own work from different perspectives, as well as learning and sharing different ways of working with young people.

"The whole experience was thought-provoking, stimulating, motivating, at times challenging but overall a wonderful opportunity to create friendships, exchange ideas on ways of working and understand a whole new culture"

**JUSTINE GLYNNE JONES**  
Community Xchange participant





“I wanted to gain an insight into the way other people live, both in the UK and abroad. This was definitely achieved... The actual work I did could be challenging as I sometimes felt overwhelmed by the seemingly unbreakable chains of poverty I saw, but it was rewarding.”

**RACHEL CHAPMAN**  
Youth Xchange volunteer



“We lived how our hosts did, which included using squatting toilets and bathing at a public tap. By the end I didn't want to leave Nepal and I've already made plans to go back. We learned about Hinduism, child labour, the youth brain drain, caste discrimination, sex traffic and safe motherhood...”

**MMA YEEBO**  
Youth Xchange volunteer



“The profound exposure and learning in Indonesia through Community Xchange, which continues to inform my daily work in a diverse town (Luton UK), is all about getting back to basic practices - compassion, kindness and hospitality across faiths and cultures, which is often easier said than done.”

**DAVID JONATHAN**  
Community Xchange participant

## How do we do it Youth Xchange

Since 2005 hundreds of young people from over 25 countries have experienced the life-changing adventure of Youth Xchange.

For six months, Youth Xchange gives young people from different countries and backgrounds a unique opportunity to live and work together. They develop valuable skills, and make a practical contribution where it's needed in two host communities.

Each exchange involves a diverse group, with equal numbers from the UK and an exchange country. The team spend three months in a community in each country, working with local organisations and living in host homes. Each volunteer is partnered with a 'counterpart' who they support and learn from.

Volunteers might be raising awareness of HIV and AIDS in Yorkshire or working with marginalized people in Maputo. They might help educational health projects in Rajasthan or support peer mentoring programmes in Bristol. But all come away with a new awareness of different cultures – from inequality and diversity to the similarities that bind us all.

“Not only does volunteering benefit the community, it also enables the individual to broaden experiences, learn new skills, meet new people and generally develop a completely new perspective on life.”

**ANDREW NEALE**  
Youth Xchange volunteer