



Play Action International UK University Team Leader

Academic year 2024/25
Role Description

Welcome

Thank you for expressing your interest in becoming a Team Leader for Play Action International (PAI)! We greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and dedication. By joining us as a Team Leader, you'll unlock a world of possibilities for training, leadership, and personal development with award winning and globally recognised charity, Play Action International.

Whether you're a seasoned volunteer seeking to advance your journey with our charity or a fresh face eager to embark on a new adventure, rest assured that we are wholeheartedly committed to supporting you at every turn. Your growth and success are paramount to us, and we couldn't be more thrilled to invite you aboard our team!

At Play Action International, we believe in empowering our Team Leaders to make a lasting impact. Together, we will create meaningful change and forge unforgettable experiences. Get ready to embark on an extraordinary journey that will shape not only your future but also the lives of those we serve.

Who is Play Action International?

Play Action International stands as a dynamic force, a registered UK charity, and an esteemed NGO in Uganda and Kenya. Our unwavering mission revolves around creating transformative opportunities for disadvantaged children to learn, flourish, and find solace through the extraordinary power of play.

We have a unique opportunity available to university students, offering summer international global mobility programs that serve as catalysts for personal growth, cultural immersion, and invaluable work experience. Volunteers immerse themselves in the communities of Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, dedicating between two and four weeks of their time to live and work alongside our highly skilled labour team. A vital role in the volunteering is constructing a playground in a rural school, engaging in unskilled labour such as digging, sanding, mixing cement and painting, that leaves a lasting impact. Additionally, volunteers introduce a dynamic play-based program, integrating sports, arts and crafts, and invigorating challenges. Together, we forge an extraordinary legacy, empowering thousands of disadvantaged children to unlock their potential, develop their skills, and find healing through the transformative power of play.

Role Description

Applicants must be enrolled into a UK university. Prepare to elevate your university experience with a voluntary role that combines the best aspects of a society committee position, with even greater rewards. This role is designed to be flexible, accommodating your full-time studies, while offering you a transformative experience that matches your level of dedication.

Each year, teams of exceptional young adults from the UK embark on a transformative journey to East Africa, lending their support to our vital work, building playgrounds and implementing a Play Programme for rural communities. But before they embark on their volunteer projects, we need dedicated individuals like you to support their journey at our partnered university campuses.

Play Action International is a registered charity in England and Wales (1172875)

As a Team Leader, you will be the charity ambassador for your university. Your primary responsibilities are to help Play Action recruit a motivated team of passionate students, support them with fundraising events, and put on socials to foster a vibrant atmosphere and a sense of community amongst the team. Your relatability, reliability, and friendly nature will provide a pillar of support and guidance for fellow students who may find this experience completely new and unfamiliar. You are the driving force of the team, and the glue to hold them together. Additionally, you'll serve as a crucial liaison between the university, the charity, and the team, providing essential information about university funding and assistance. Your role will be pivotal in ensuring the productive presence of Play Action on campus, optimising our time and impact.

If you're ready to embark on a voyage of personal development, enhance your employability, acquire new skills, and forge life-altering experiences while profoundly impacting the lives of countless children, look no further. Read on to discover more about the role itself and the comprehensive support we offer.

What we expect from you

Your commitment to the Team Leader scheme will require:

- Participation in our compulsory training programme, delivered either remotely or in person by Play Action International staff.
- Commitment to recruit a team of an agreed number of volunteers at your university (September-December). You will be assisted by Play Action International staff.
- Commitment to supporting your team of volunteers (December - May). You will be assisted by Play Action International staff.

Optional:

- Opportunity to volunteer on one of our summer projects in Uganda, Kenya, or Tanzania to experience first-hand the impact Play Action International has on communities and children in East Africa (2-, 3- or 4-week placement during June-September 2025)

The Play Action International year at a glance

We run in tandem with the academic year, which is broken down into:

1. Recruitment Season (September- December),
2. Supporting your Team (December- May) and
3. The Summer Projects (June- August).

You will play a major part in the first two stages and enjoy the rewards of your efforts in the third as you join us out in East Africa for your project during the summer.

Recruitment season

Recruitment season for the Team Leader role kicks off as soon as the term starts at your university. It's an exhilarating time filled with opportunities to engage with fellow students, ignite their enthusiasm for the project, and ultimately assemble a passionate team of volunteers. Your mission is to build a dynamic and dedicated group of individuals, ranging from 10 to 40 volunteers, who will join you on this transformative journey. You'll attend fresher fairs, events, post on social media and send emails to departments to assist you in recruiting.

Skills you will develop:

- Develop public speaking skills through captivating presentations
- Sharpen marketing abilities to promote the project effectively

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- Enhance communication skills as an effective communicator
- Master time management to balance academic and recruitment responsibilities

Supporting Your Team

Once volunteers have signed up for the project, your role as a Team Leader shifts to supporting them in reaching their fundraising targets and preparing for the trip. While fundraising knowledge is not a requirement, your focus will be on fostering a sense of community and motivation within the team.

During this period, you'll organise social events and activities to build a strong bond among the volunteers and create a sense of belonging. Group gatherings, such as bake sales, or pub quizzes will help raise funds collectively and contribute to the team's overall success. Even an unrelated-to-fundraising social helps!

As a Team Leader, you will also assist Play Action in identifying any volunteers who may require additional support or show commitment concerns. Your role involves checking in on their welfare, providing guidance on fundraising strategies, and conducting one-on-one support sessions to ensure they have the knowledge and resources needed to meet their targets and be well-prepared for the trip.

Skills you will develop:

- People management
- Team building and fostering a sense of community
- Fundraising strategies and implementation
- Volunteer welfare and support
- Planning and coordination

Benefits

- ✓ Reduced fundraising target of up to 40% by completing incentive tasks that are the keys to success in your role.
- ✓ Enrolled onto our Personal Development Programme.
- ✓ Meet and network with all our other University Team Leaders across the country.
- ✓ A written personal reference, both on LinkedIn, on a document and whenever requested.
- ✓ The chance to intern for 3 months in the UK or East Africa with Play Action International

How do I apply?

Head to <https://playactioninternational.org/about-us/jobs/> to download an application form. Please send the application to volunteering@playactioninternational.org

Informal interviews will take place on a rolling basis between June – September 2024. We suggest you apply at your earliest convenience. There are only one or two roles available per university.