

Active Citizen Report



For the past 16 years Student Hubs has been delivering activities in line with our mission to mainstream student social action, supporting students to thrive as active citizens; both during their time at university, and throughout their journey as alumni. This report outlines the impact of our work as a facilitator, creating the spaces required for active citizenship to be developed through the journeys of our alumni community.

It is clear that university is a key transformative time for many. Offering students a unique opportunity to explore; learning about themselves and their communities; and the world around them through a broad range of activities, a diverse network of peers and a sense of independence. Student Hubs worked to facilitate a supported, safe and accessible environment in our activities through which individuals could explore social action whilst at university.

Our network shared that one of the essential factors of this environment was the opportunity to **connect** with like minded students, meeting others with shared values and similar interests whom you may not have otherwise met.

94% of student participants agreed a Student Hubs activity introduced them to people they otherwise wouldn't have met (since 2015)

Another essential factor was **trust**. Students and early career staff were trusted to take on a broad range of responsibilities, acting as leaders and decision makers for the events, activities and programmes they were involved in. This trust was accompanied by a structured support system which was adapted to individual need.

78%

of student participants agreed being involved in a Student Hubs activity improved their ability to lead others to make change

(since 2015)

The final essential factor was the **mindset** championed by the staff and students who made up our network. Everyone in our network was an essential part of our shared culture which championed growth, optimism, and hope, which are key elements to making change.

86%

of student participants agreed they are more likely to tackle further social challenges as a result of their engagement with Student Hubs

(since 2018)

Through engaging with Student Hubs' activities which prioritised connection, trust and mindset, student participants developed key skills including confidence, collaboration, communication and organisation, which have gone on to support their academic journey and employability. They also began to critically engage with the world around them, impacting their career ambitions and commitment to active citizenship beyond university.

This report is informed by our 2024 Active Citizen Survey, which received 110 responses from student and staff alumni, and 14 in-depth case studies.



Rosanna is a Data and Evaluation Officer in the charity sector. From 2018 to 2021 whilst studying Creative Writing at the University of Winchester she got involved with the Hub, taking the first step in her active citizen journey. We talked to Rosanna about her journey with Student Hubs and the impact that has had on her as she takes the first steps in her graduate career in Bristol.

“In first year I was the kind of student that just threw myself into everything. I was so quiet and so shy that I asked myself what feels like the easiest thing to get involved with - and that was Winchester Hub for me. The Hub did Give it a Go sessions so my first activity was Arts and Crafts at a dementia care home which was one of their one-off activities and then it just developed from there. I got this reputation for being the person who did absolutely everything! I ended up doing a couple of other Give it a Gos like carol singing at a care home and an intergenerational sports day at a local community lido centre. That was at the very start of my first year of university.

I then went into some longer term things, I joined Woolly Matters - doing some knitting for the community. I did Schools Plus as well, I was based in the Discovery Centre in Winchester for a bit and at Eastleigh Library to help with the homework club they'd just set up. That was my initiation to volunteering really in that first year, I'd never volunteered before that.

My engagement progressed again, like different stages of volunteering. In my second year I joined the Communications Team on the Hub's student committee. I did that for two years. Moving from this one-off low commitment volunteering, which I think is really important in showing people that volunteering is accessible, to actually a year down the line representing my university and representing the charity on campus. I realised I actually had capacity to do that on a long term scale.

My volunteering shaped me far more than my degree really did in terms of identifying what my values are, and what my role is in society. It's devastating seeing Student Hubs is going because I think the benefit of the Hub was about personal development, and equally about the relationships that you build within that. I made friendships in the committee I was with and even the short term relationships you build in those one-off volunteering engagements, just sitting in a room knitting with people, were so meaningful. It's quite a powerful mindset to have both for yourself and for others that relationships can be built through simple engagement. Regardless of whether it's an intergenerational activity, or you're working with children for example. The support to develop and meet others is available through the Hub, so it's beneficial for both the individual and also the larger scale community...

I think more universities should give opportunities for social action activities and I think that all universities should really put volunteering at the forefront of their careers programmes. So much weight is put on earning money and employment but that's only one strand of our involvement in the community. I would always advocate for volunteering, especially for young people.

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Connection

Connection is a key factor in developing active citizenship and this was embedded in Student Hubs' activities in two ways: connection with a community of like-minded peers, and connection with a place-based community.

University is a key time for individuals to meet new people. For the first time in many people's lives they will be introduced to a diverse group of peers, from a broad variety of backgrounds - both in place and perspective. However groups are often still limited to the student body, and, within that, those who share a similar interest, be that because of the subject they study, or a society they are part of. Student Hubs' activities brought together students from different disciplines and year groups, with different motivations for being involved in social action, but also with a shared goal and purpose to work towards together.

From the friends that I made at Warwick and around the country I feel like I met really likeminded people. Something I found really frustrating at university was meeting people who didn't share my values. I was wildly optimistic about my ability to make social change happen as an individual so there was something about being part of Student Hubs as an organisation that was so passionate and ambitious and optimistic about what students can do which was exciting. Meeting other people who shared the same passion about the challenges that we face as a society, and the urgency for change, was a really key driver for me.

- Francis Wight

These activities were delivered in partnership with local community organisations to have a double benefit on both the student participants, and the communities they were connecting with. Students were supported to experience new areas of the city they lived in, and meet community members they would not have otherwise met, deepening their understanding and perspective of the world around them.

I loved that I had these connections with people in different parts of the city and could bump into people - students and people who lived locally... It helped me in my university experience because it was like breaking out of that bubble a little bit - a reminder that there was real life out there. It gave me perspective and actually helped me in my studies because it helped me to not get too drawn into the stress and intensity of it. It gave me the opportunity to dip out and realise life went on outside

- Alice Thornton

A sense of belonging whilst at university is interlinked with mental health, confidence and academic success ([Wonkhe, 2022](#)). As such, any opportunity that offers space for meaningful connection - both within and outside of the university community - should be prioritised as a key part of every students' university experience.

79%

of alumni agreed their time at Student Hubs increased their engagement with their community. **72%** agreed their time increased their sense of belonging in the local community



Zemzem tutored with Schools Plus whilst studying Chemistry at the University of Southampton, before joining the committee as programme coordinator. She currently works as a Personalised Care & Treatment Project Officer.

I think an active citizen is somebody who gets involved in things that are for the good of other people - for the community and for society. It's putting yourself out there to really get involved, and to interact with people who are slightly different from yourself. You get that richer taste of life and see how other people do things, or what other people's experiences really are. If you're an active citizen you're there to widen your perspective, get experience and make changes for the better...

I think there's really good social benefits to volunteering. Going to university you're on your own and exposed to lots of different people, so volunteering is about building a community. With volunteering everyone's really friendly so you get that warmth of community. It gives you experience in talking to people and building your confidence. It also gives you positive feedback to understand what you've done well as a volunteer, to build your confidence and to identify and build upon what you are good at...

Some people go to university and they know exactly what they want to do... For me it wasn't quite like that. I did enjoy Chemistry as my degree, but I didn't want to do research as a career. Student Hubs helped me to discover the things I enjoyed. In part this was leadership, but it was also doing improvement work; identifying the missing piece in a project that brings it together. Particularly as part of a community, I really enjoyed doing that.

Whilst studying Physics at the University of Bristol from 2017, Callum was an active part of the Hub: from volunteer to programme coordinator to committee member. Callum now works in Technology.

I signed up to volunteer to meet a new group of people and to do something a bit different to my other extracurricular interest - sports. I also had an interest in educational inequality so it sounded like a good thing to do, especially in Bristol where the University is in such an affluent area but next door to it you have very different neighbourhoods...

Volunteering really helped me to broaden my horizons, I learned a lot more about what the city was like outside of the university bubble. It also helped me to develop as you have responsibility, you are viewed as an adult in a classroom of 16 year olds - even though to yourself they're not that much younger than you. It created a really nice community as well, because there was a need for commitment. We saw the same faces every week and we all got to know each other quite well and became friends, we became a social circle.

Going through the committees a lot of the planning, organising, working with other people and coming together to decide how we would do things were skills I found really useful when applying for jobs after university. It was a non academic experience where you work with people. Especially important given a lot of university can be individual with you writing your own papers and doing your own exams. The Hub committee was a truly collaborative experience which helped us all to learn a lot. It's such a different group of people to get to know, and work with, who you might not have crossed paths with.

Trust

Feeling trusted is a key part of building confidence. When young people are trusted and championed to take positions of responsibility, and lead activities, the opportunity for growth is amplified. Student Hubs' roots as a student-led organisation meant that shared decision making and individual agency were embedded throughout our activities from our inception. As the organisation grew into a staff-led charity with student leadership opportunities, we ensured a consistent support structure was also embedded, with tailored levels of responsibility available across all of our programmes.

A student could attend a speaker session to learn more about a social issue topic they were interested in, and at the same time student leaders worked to plan multi-day conferences bringing panels of speakers together to build awareness and hope. Similarly, a student could attend a one-off gardening event to get out in their local community and meet new people, whilst their peers planned, attended and led activity days for 40 young people and fellow volunteers.

I was so quiet and so shy that I asked myself what feels like the easiest thing to get involved with - and that was Winchester Hub for me... Moving from this one-off low commitment volunteering, which I think is really important in showing people that volunteering is accessible, to actually a year down the line representing my university and representing the charity on campus. I realised I actually had capacity to make change on a long term scale.

- Rosanna Foster

For staff alumni, both from the Student Hubs team and the Worthwhile social impact graduate scheme, Student Hubs' working culture has always prioritised trust. Whilst members of the team admitted the responsibility given to them early on in their career could at times be scary, or stressful, it was ultimately a great learning experience, both in building skills and experience in the charity sector, and building confidence in their own capabilities.

I was able to get in such a huge amount of career experience in a relatively short amount of time at a very young age. It was stressful at times but it was also amazing working in an environment where I felt completely trusted and empowered to do stuff that a lot of people never do in their whole career. Things like line managing from my second year of work, overseeing organisational budgets, some things I don't do in my job now. I was so lucky to have some of those experiences early on.

- Francis Wight

The key to effective trust is supporting individuals to reflect on their capacity and capabilities, and take on the responsibility they feel ready for - as well as intentionally creating the environment for them to develop the skills and confidence to take the next step in their active citizen journey.





Holly is a Grants Manager at IFoA Foundation. Whilst studying Biology at the University of Southampton she was involved with the Hub as a volunteer, programme coordinator and committee President.

It was the most responsibility I'd taken on at that time in anything. That made me feel really confident and competent... Going into my committee role I had spoken to the previous coordinator and I was really torn on whether to even go for it. I felt a lot of imposter syndrome about even trying. She was great and really honest about it - she shared that it can feel like a lot of work if you've not done anything like it before but you have a lot of support to help you manage it. You have the staff team who are there to support as well which makes a huge difference... you have that back up plan, and you have someone who's helping you through it and mentoring you in a way...

I ended up going for an internship with the Uni's Public Engagement and Widening Participation teams and I can solidly draw a line from my time with Student Hubs to that internship. First of all I wouldn't have even considered it because I wouldn't have had any experience doing that sort of work but also I wouldn't have had any confidence in my abilities. Having taken that jump to become Schools Plus Coordinator when I wasn't really sure about it and ending up having such a good time made me have the same thought process when I was looking at this internship. I didn't feel 100% about it but I knew I could probably get in and learn if I needed to and I knew I had more skills than I had had the previous year - so why not. The Hub was a big thing for my mindset.

From 2008 Alice was involved with Student Hubs whilst studying a Modern History BA at Oxford University, and upon graduation joined the staff team in a range of roles from supporting Hub delivery, to managing network operations, to joining the senior management team.



I was challenged to step up and do things... and realise I can get stuff done - I can have an idea and see it through. We did some wild things when I think about it with hindsight - we didn't let a lack of experience or resources stop us...

There are lots of skills I learned as a student - being challenged, organising events and conferences, coordinating volunteering groups and tangible communications skills like creating newsletters. As Student Hubs grew it was a learning opportunity for all of us, both within our roles but also by seeing other things that were going on like the branding of the organisation, and the process involved in establishing the Turl Street Kitchen. There was so much exposure, so much happening that you could be involved in. Even if you weren't organising it yourself you... could learn from others' experiences.

As a staff member we were thrown in at the deep end. I look back on it now and there are definitely things I would do differently. But those are lessons I have been able to take with me into the rest of my career. The amount of experience I got in the first few years of working at Student Hubs felt like a lot compared to many of my peers. This included line management, being responsible for a budget, and leading new projects. These experiences have given me so much to draw on when I was looking for other jobs, even recently.

Mindset

A growth mindset is the belief that a person's capacities and talents can be improved over time ([Psychology Today, 2024](#)); for active citizens, it's important to view this on a community and global level too. Active citizens have hope that things can change for the better, and that is a motivator for making change.

95% of alumni agreed that one person can make a positive change in the world

98% agreed that they can make change in the world

91% agreed that their perspective on this was positively impacted by their engagement with Student Hubs

University is an exciting time, but as with all spaces of transformation it also poses challenges. One element of this is learning more about social issues, but not having the knowledge or agency to take action. Facilitating spaces for students to engage with social issues, and take meaningful action towards tackling them, can overcome feelings of hopelessness ([Student Minds and the UPP Foundation](#)). At Student Hubs this also included understanding the broad range of ways individuals can make change, and how our unique skill sets and gifts can benefit the community.



I was really passionate about environmental issues but wasn't really sure how to get involved with anything as it felt like something that was quite inaccessible... The Hub felt like a good way for me to build my confidence and to take my first step to make some change at the same time.

- Will Moody

This positive belief in change, or hope, was embedded throughout Student Hubs' activities. Social issues were discussed through a solutions lens, exploring how individuals, networks and communities can work to innovate and make change. Students were trusted to take risks and responsibility with the knowledge that our network of peers, community members and staff was there to support them.



I think the approach at Student Hubs was always very optimistic in terms of solving society's greatest challenges. It felt positive, hopeful and innovative in a really big way. That has shaped what I do now because the space that I'm working in is all about innovation and positivity and using business to solve society's problems. It was that direct outlook on activism and innovation that led me to where I am.

- Catherine Draper

Engaging with Student Hubs impacted both student and staff perspectives of active citizenship, and the hope individuals had in their ability to make change; in turn, this impacted their commitment to continuing to make change as active citizens. Don't underestimate the power of hope.

Makena is a community worker and freelance contractor for the county council. Whilst studying Human Sciences at Oxford University from 2013-2016 she was involved with the Hub as a committee member and intern before joining the Worthwhile graduate scheme.

When I arrived at university I didn't know that the community or charity sector was a thing at all. I knew there were international charities and big organisations doing stuff but I didn't know that you as an individual could take part and change things. The very clear message of Student Hubs was that you could have a go and actually do something. I learned my own agency pretty quickly from Student Hubs, I remember that shift in understanding...

For me active citizenship is very connected to hope, the way I was able to manifest hope was through action. Being involved with Student Hubs, as well as the people I got to know through it - plus a few other experiences/influences, taught me that idea of "hope as action".

Active citizenship has a lot to do with people's agency and Student Hubs definitely helped me realise my own agency. A big challenge in many parts of society is that people don't really know that they are able to do something to make change, and they are able to feel the rewards of doing something as part of a community...

The environment of Worthwhile both supported me to do the work practically and have the space for thoughts, exploration and learning around complicated things like systems and injustices in the charity and campaigning sectors. The group of colleagues and friends on my cohort were rich in developing my thoughts around those things.

Whilst studying at the University of Warwick Francis was part of a group of student leaders who set up Warwick Hub in 2011. Francis went on to work at Student Hubs in a variety of roles, including as CEO. He currently works as Investment Manager for Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.



I didn't quite realise how rare it was to be in a job where you progressively have more responsibilities every year... The level of responsibility at Student Hubs was a bit scary but also, because of the confidence that was put in you, it was very empowering. I didn't question whether I could achieve things. I think Student Hubs has such a strong belief in the ability to learn. If you are talented and passionate then you can learn how to manage a budget or manage people or whatever it is... That thoughtfulness around personal development is a really important piece of what made Student Hubs impactful...

I always felt that culture of trust at Student Hubs. I'd get stuff wrong, I was stressed a lot of time and there were loads of things that I didn't like but the amount of difference trust in a workplace makes is gigantic in terms of your confidence and enjoyment in work. I think that's a core thing that I think about when I'm thinking about work.

I personally felt really psychologically safe at Student Hubs and it felt like ideas were encouraged - it was not a case of we're doing things this way and if you're not on board go away or don't give feedback. Instead it was let's innovate, let's do things differently, let's trust and empower our staff and students to come up with good ideas because we're all learning. I always felt totally psychologically safe - which is something I probably took for granted at the time.

Skill Development

Student Hubs' impact framework identifies four key skills for life developed through our activities - leadership, teamwork, confidence and resilience - as well as other professional skills. Skills are developed through training, interacting with others and taking part in well supported activities - with plenty of opportunity for reflection and sharing embedded.

87%

of alumni agreed they developed leadership skills. **95%** agreed they developed teamwork skills, **96%** agreed they developed communication skills and **95%** agreed they developed resilience.

Developing these skills supported student participants whilst at university, through applying their learnings to their degrees. But it also supported our staff and student alumni community's employability beyond Student Hubs, giving tangible examples of their skills, and how they had applied them in real world experiences, to share in job applications and at interviews. Once in new positions, alumni have found the broad range of experiences, and skills developed through the responsibility they took on at Student Hubs have come into use time and time again.

94%

of alumni agreed their time at Student Hubs improved their employability

Alex is a Masters Student in Archaeology, whilst studying his undergraduate degree he was involved with Southampton Hub as a student volunteer, programme coordinator and committee President.

A big area of skill development for me has been organisation and management of time, resources and people as well. My roles at the Hub have really encouraged me to focus on long term ideas, long term plans, and do my best to stick with those plans whilst also being adaptable and changing things where needed.

That skill development started out in the microcosm with a few young people through Libraries Plus, working with them in the first term to develop their knowledge. Moving up to coordinating and making sure everyone is able to thrive as a volunteer and all the young people are happy...

The organisational skills I have developed through the Hub have really benefited me, I've noticed it in my studies - I'm a lot more on it with lectures and assignments because I'm thinking in that organisation brain of planning things out and having them done early.

Another thing the Hub has really helped me with is to become more communicative and to get on well with lots of different people quite quickly. I met a lot of people through the Hub and over time I've developed more and more people skills - getting on with not only Hub members and committee members but also parents and kids. That's been a really valuable skill I don't think I would have had the chance to develop in any other setting - learning how to speak to others and how to get on with people.



Catherine was involved with Bristol Hub whilst studying Sociology at the University from 2011 to 2015. She took part in the Social Impact Internship Scheme, attended events, coordinated speaker events as part of the committee and took part in the Worthwhile social impact graduate scheme.

My engagement with Student Hubs impacted my employability in terms of directly transferable skills. I organised a conference, I've organised all of these events, I've done all of this organising and time management - really clear skills...

The job that I do now is for B Lab UK, the organisation behind B Corp, which is a certification and movement about using business as a force for good... I joined the team back in 2017 and directly a lot of my Student Hubs experience was really relevant to be able to say "I've already done a role in environment and sustainability, I've already done a graduate scheme, I'm a fully trained individual who can go into this role". At the beginning B Lab UK was a start up. There were three of us so bringing that optimism, excitement and willingness to get stuck into lots of different projects was really important...

The most important thing in my job now is my partnership and engagement skills which really flourished through my engagement with the Hub, beginning with my role as Environment and Sustainability Coordinator. I remember a very specific memory of doing the graduate scheme and writing in a notepad "I get to have fun meetings with people all day, I wonder if this could be a real job" and I get to do a lot of that relationship building and stakeholder management in my role now.

Michael is a Senior Engineer at AtkinsRéalis. Whilst studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering from 2011-2015 his was involved with Imperial Hub as a volunteer and student leader.



I first got engaged with Student Hubs through Student Volunteering Week. I was then the Environment and Sustainability Coordinator from 2013 to 2014 and we ran the London Climate Forum, the largest student conference on climate at the time. We got loads of people coming, it was stressful but it was cool. We had some high profile speakers, and although a separate committee organised this I was able to input. Through being a committee member I also did lots of other things helping others on the committee out... As a committee member the Hub helped me hit different personal development goals in terms of organisation, managing events and people, but also just meeting friends...

In the professional setting I became an Engineer after my degree. The Hub supported this as at my grad interview I had all of these competencies and situations to talk about. Via the Hub I could talk about things like helping to organise the Climate Forum and working with others in the committee. The Hub developed those soft skills where it's not tangible things I necessarily learned but I could share experiences [where] I had demonstrated them before.

I helped run an away day for 200 people the other month and without my knowledge from delivering the Climate Forum I wouldn't necessarily have appreciated the logistics and time that went into an event like that - that wasn't part of my main role but it's an example of things I've experienced at the Hub that could help me along my career journey for years to come. Nuggets of doing different things that add to my skill set.

Critical Engagement

At Student Hubs we believe critical engagement has three parts: an awareness of the issues facing communities locally and globally; an understanding of how to make meaningful change happen; and the motivation to go out there and make that change!

92% of alumni agreed their time at Student Hubs helped their understanding of how to make social change happen

94% of alumni agreed that their time at Student Hubs helped their confidence in making social change happen

Student social action activities can develop all three of these parts if well facilitated. Students should be supported to learn about social issues and themselves within an equitable learning space. They should be supported to connect with one another and their local communities to explore a broad variety of perspectives and experiences. Finally, they should be supported to do something to make change with both the understanding of why what they are doing is meaningful, and the agency to lead that change.

Our alumni community found the critical engagement structure at Student Hubs meaningful in identifying what they wanted to do beyond university. Through being supported as active citizens whilst students, they had the confidence to continue their journey beyond the Hub into their career and future citizenship. **88%** of our alumni shared that they are making a positive social impact through their career, and **76%** are making a positive social impact in their community.

Whilst studying History at the University of Winchester, Aaron was involved with the Hub's one-off activities and committee. Since graduating Aaron worked at Student Hubs before starting a role as a Student Support Service Adviser.

“Something I found at university was trying to figure out where I wanted to go afterwards. I tried all of these different things... but it wasn't until volunteering and working with Student Hubs that I thought I actually quite enjoy working with students and particularly empowering students as well. It's not just about giving myself a step up, but also supporting others to do the same...

It also gave me quite a bit of confidence in terms of working with other people... when it came to co-leading the committee because I was working with someone else with whom I had a shared interest, but a different approach to achieving that. We had different skill sets and different opinions and ways of doing things. There was an aspect of collaborating which I have taken forward now and I have been very confident ever since in terms of sharing how I feel about things at work.

There's also an element there of being aspirational as well. When you're working at Hubs you meet a lot of people who go on to do a lot of good things... there is an element of being motivated or inspired by those you're working with... I'm still very much the kind of person who always wants to achieve the best or at least try and do what I can where I can.





Whilst studying his PhD in Cancer Immunology at the University of Cambridge, Will took part in Cambridge Hub's Engage for Change programme. Through the programme he was supported to launch the Cambridge Carbon Literacy Project at the institution.

The Hub was my first step towards making environmental change and it hooked me. Sometimes you can take the first step towards something and it fizzles out, but the Hub really supported me not only initially, but it was there the whole way through my journey to keep me going and made me feel I could keep making progress... The main thing the Hub supported me with was seeing that as an individual you can do something bigger than just what is in your immediate control - you can take positive actions in your everyday life yes, but real impact comes when you can communicate why you do that, and bring others along with you too...

In terms of my... journey it definitely changed that... Without it, I'm certain I wouldn't be doing the job I currently am now: a Civil Servant in the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero Strategy team. I don't think this job opportunity would have crossed my radar, let alone would I have thought I was qualified to do that job without the Hub. It gave me the opportunity to develop Net Zero experience and develop my CV, to show my individual passion for these issues is also reflected in professional experience. Although my engagement with Cambridge Hub wasn't 'professional' work, I was always actively doing something practical and developing skills like leadership, communication and organisation. All of these soft skills in the space of environmental science have been super useful when writing CVs and showing a general interest in the field.

Lucy took part in Cambridge Hub's Social Innovation Programme (SIP) whilst studying History and Modern Languages at the institution. She is now a Public Services Consultant.



You can get stuck in the university bubble so I loved the idea of working with an organisation to discover more of the city outside of the University and, at the same time, learn new skills, and connect with other students who had similar interests. Our brief was with the Cherry Hinton community benefit society who were looking at creating a community café...

I found SIP really inspiring and motivating. Planning my consultancy work around my uni work kept me motivated through the week... The Hub showed there was an opportunity as an active citizen to go into the organisational details that sit behind a charity or community benefit organisation rather than being a 'frontline' volunteer. Before getting involved... I didn't really realise there was this space to do consultancy or more advisory operations work with an organisation...

At the moment I'm a Public Services Consultant working for a company called The PSC. We work with public services organisations to tackle and solve the problems that they're facing. It's similar to what we did for SIP but on a much broader scale... I loved that with SIP it was not just about developing a set of skills with consultancy and problem solving, but it was about using those for a problem that was going to be socially beneficial. I realised it was going to be important to make a social impact in my career going forward. SIP was the first step for me in exploring and realising what I really wanted to get out of my future.

Conclusion

Student Hubs closed our doors in January 2025, but the legacy of our work continues.

Firstly, our alumni network continue to utilise the skills and critical engagement they developed with Student Hubs as they continue their active citizen journey.

Secondly, colleagues across the UK continue to facilitate the necessary environments for student active citizens to flourish through:

- Prioritising meaningful **connections** both within and outside of the university;
- **Trusting** individuals to take on responsibility within high support activities;
- Embedding a hopeful **mindset** in the possibility of growth and change, for individuals and communities.

From 2018-2021 Kate studied Media and Communication at the University of Winchester. In her final year she joined the student committee as a Communications Officer.

“ I applied for the committee in my final year because I thought it would be a great opportunity to further myself and learn new skills... As an individual, I felt more confident in myself through my engagement with the Hub... I was making my own content pieces with my own thoughts and ideas. It was also a nice focus to have aside from doing your university work... My development was supported by the team, everyone around me was smiley and I'd get a feel for them as a person. It's always great to work with positive people.



Student Hubs is a registered charity in England and Wales, no. 1122328.

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Visit www.studenthubs.org to learn more about our legacy work