



Lincoln School of Fine and Performing Arts

A Guide to Working with Our Students

This document is designed to support organisations, both in and outside of the University of Lincoln, and the students of the School of Fine and Performing Arts, in working together on opportunities, events and longer-term partnerships.

If you would like to discuss anything here or have any questions around engaging our students then please contact LSFPA Creative Engagement Producer, Rachel Baynton: rbaynton@lincoln.ac.uk

The School

The Lincoln School of Fine and Performing Arts is a centre of creativity with a purpose-built arts venue, studios and gallery. It is home to a vibrant artistic community of students and staff, and hosts a regular programme of guest lectures, visiting artists' projects, and workshops.

The work of the School covers a wide array of contemporary art and performance practices that range from curatorial thinking, live art, digital media and installation, through to practical aspects of performance such as movement, voice, improvisation, stage combat and arts & cultural management.

We offer a variety of undergraduate and post-graduate courses, including programmes in Choreography, Dance, Drama & Theatre, Fine Art, Music, Musical Theatre, and Technical Theatre & Stage Management.

Our Students

At the School of Fine and Performing Arts, we aim to provide our students with a rich educational experience that is internationally relevant and culturally diverse.

We prioritise professionalism amongst our students and our practice-led approach and excellent industry links are designed to prepare them for a successful career in their chosen sector. All of our students are in the process of developing professional skills for careers in appropriate industries, and the high standards that these industries expect are reflected in the values, aspirations and processes that our courses foster and that our students develop.

Opportunities

There are many demands on our students and their time, both from the rigours of their course and from external sources so it is vital that we encourage them to value their time and skills appropriately.

It is important that the students learn to apply their skills by taking advantage of the many opportunities offered to them by organisations in and outside of the university. This helps them to develop their skills further and professionalise their practice.

It is equally important that the organisations offering the opportunity are equipped to offer a rewarding experience for our students and are not merely seeking free art works, labour, music, or content. The expertise, time and commitment of our students need to be appropriately recognised, as they would be in any other industry.

In this way, both the organisation and the students will benefit from working together.

Types of Opportunity

There are many ways of engaging with our students, take a look at the opportunity types below and please feel free to contact us with any thoughts or queries...

PROFESSIONAL (PAID) OPPORTUNITIES

This might take the form of a one-off event, a series of events, or a longer engagement. The student will be paid appropriately for their time, and in return your organisation will benefit from the skills, passion and talent of the LSFPA students.

If you'd like to discuss employing our students for your event or organisation then please get in touch via the details below.

WORK EXPERIENCE (UNPAID)

This kind of opportunity will offer students a period of practical experience (of any length), relating to their field of study. This experience is valuable to students as a way of allowing them to see how their studies can be applied in the "real world". Unlike employment, or paid opportunities, work experience has an emphasis on training and mentoring.

By offering work experience opportunities you can:

- Inspire young creatives at the first stages of their career
- Offer insight into working in your sector and the benefit of your experience
- Raise the profile of your organisation and its work through connecting with your community
- Help develop and retain local skills and talent
- Develop the mentoring skills of the staff within your own organisation

We'd love to talk to you if you feel that you can offer this kind of opportunity or would like any advice about providing work experience.

VOLUNTEERING

Offering volunteering opportunities can be complicated. Volunteering is a choice freely made by each individual, who donates their time and skill in the way that they see fit, and therefore requires careful management of expectations and contributions.

If you are seeking volunteers then we recommend you contact University of Lincoln Students' Union Volunteering Department (<https://lincolnsu.com/volunteering>) who may be able to help you advertise your opportunity.

LONGER-TERM PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS...

We understand that high quality work demands time, energy, expertise and resources, with considerable preparation, planning, rehearsals and project design. There are often ways in which professional and work experience opportunities can be woven into the school's courses, meaning students can gain credit for their work and your organisation can benefit from sustained engagement with the creativity of the students.

This applies to one-off projects and those that take place on multiple occasions – often from year to year. If you'd like to talk about the potential for projects or partnerships, across any of the school's areas of expertise, then please contact our Creative Engagement Producer via the details below.

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Working with Our Students

When offering an opportunity to our students please consider the following:

- Who would this role be most suited to? i.e. students studying a certain subject
- What kind of support/supervision will the student receive?
- What personal qualities and skills does the role require?
- Availability – How often would the students be required and at what times?
- What are the work-ready skills the student will learn or develop?
- What are the steps needed before getting started? (For example: completing an application form, getting DBS checked, providing references, attending an interview, receiving training)

What the students expect...	What you can expect...
A welcoming and inspiring environment in which to work.	That students will work to support your organisation's aims and vision during the engagement.
A full introduction to the work and the aspects they'll be engaging with including basic safety procedures.	That they will act in accordance with your rules, and the basic safety procedures within your buildings and venues.
The chance to gain new skills and use existing ones.	That students will carry out the role to the very best of their ability.
To be recognised and appreciated for their contribution.	That they will ask you for help if they are unsure of how to perform any tasks or anything is unclear
Fair and respectful treatment – regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, parental or marital status, disability, religion, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, or socio/economic background.	Fair and respectful treatment – regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, parental or marital status, disability, religion, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, or socio/economic background.
Reimbursement of any reasonable out of pocket expenses that have been agreed in advance.	Commitment: students will attend as arranged and give reasonable notice of any unavailability.
Advice and guidance, should they require it, in identifying opportunities to continue working or studying within the sector.	That students will keep you and the school informed of any problems encountered during their time with you.