

CHARITY AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

There are over 160,000 charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the UK, and thousands more around the globe, covering a huge range of local, national and international causes. Some of these work on issues of international development, and this area of work is also home to commercial organizations (such as development consultancies) and governmental and international bodies (such as DFID in the UK, the UN or the World Bank).

Jobs and Internships

Organisations will use a range of skillsets to get their work done: this means that opportunities exist for graduates of all disciplines to work in a wide variety of job roles. Profiles of some of the different roles available can be found on [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospects.ac.uk) (such as charity fundraiser, community development worker, international aid worker and volunteer coordinator).

There are very few graduate training schemes in this sector. Some of the few include:

- [Charity-works.co.uk](https://charity-works.co.uk)
- [Cancerresearchuk.org](https://cancerresearchuk.org)
- [Sanctuary-group.co.uk/careers/graduates](https://sanctuary-group.co.uk/careers/graduates)
- [Peopleandplanet.org/work-with-us](https://peopleandplanet.org/work-with-us)
- [Worthwhile.org.uk](https://worthwhile.org.uk).

The Department for International Development (DFID) has in the past offered a graduate scheme called an 'Entry Talent Programme', separate from the rest of the Civil Service Fast Stream, but this advertised sporadically rather than specifically every year.

A common route into this work is to build your skills through volunteering or internships during your course, and then apply for entry-level roles in the sector once you've graduated. There are plenty of internship, placement and work experience opportunities in this sector. Although many are unpaid you may be able to use the Reading Internship Scheme to access funding.

When gaining experience, focus on the particular areas that you're passionate about: such as poverty, housing, conservation or sustainability.

Another option is to gain more advanced knowledge and skills through study or work and enter the sector later in your career. The latter route is a common way to enter roles in charity and development which require specific training or qualifications, such as accountancy roles or technical posts.

Key resources

[Reading University volunteering schemes \(student.reading.ac.uk\)](https://student.reading.ac.uk) – many of these schemes give valuable experience which would enhance an application for internships or jobs in the sector.

[RUSU.co.uk – Volunteering opportunities](https://rusu.co.uk) – find causes to volunteer with build your experience.

[Do-It.org](https://do-it.org) – find local volunteering that fits your schedule and areas of interest.

[Charityjob.co.uk](https://charityjob.co.uk) – UK charity sector job board.

jobs.thirdsector.co.uk – UK charity sector job board, linked to *Third Sector Magazine* which publishes charity sector news.

Workfuly.co.uk – Emerging UK charity sector jobs board.

Idealist.org – international job and internship site.

Bond.org.uk/jobs – international charity and NGO job board.

Reliefweb.int/jobs – international humanitarian aid and development jobs, use filters for ‘type’ and ‘experience’ Devex and Devnet are also prominent job boards for international development, but to see many roles you need a paid-for account. ReliefWeb is open access, funded by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

volunteerics.org – international Citizen Service – overseas volunteering supported by the UK Government.

Britishcouncil.org schemes – a range of paid internships and longer roles in cultural relations and education development open to students and graduates.



