

# Volunteering

A way to learn new skills, access training opportunities and progress onto employment

Each year, Our Parklife offers the opportunity to a student from the University of East London to get involved in a range of administration and customer service activities as part of their work placement. It is a great opportunity for the students who want to gain experience, learn skills and enhance their CV.

## Vinay's Story

For Vinay, the Park Champion programme offered him the chance to progress into a paid role as a Duty Manager looking after the Customer and Mobility Service at the Information Point.

Vinay first got involved with the Park as an Event Volunteer in July 2013.

Vinay studied Sport, Physical Education and Development at the University of East London.

As part of his Degree programme at UEL, he was required to carry out a 200 hours work internship placement which he did within the Our Parklife team. On his placement, he supported the team and helped develop the Park Champion programme by working on varied projects and promoting it to the local community.

For his university dissertation, Vinay analysed volunteering behaviours and evaluated issues related to volunteerism following the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. Being part of the team was a real asset to his project.

After his 200 hours work placement, Vinay continued being involved in the Park Champion programme and applied to be a casual Duty Manager for our Customer and Mobility Service.

Vinay was offered the position and continues developing his skills and knowledge of the Park.

Vinay said:  
"Being part of the Park team is great fun. I really enjoy working with the Park Champion programme and the volunteers are excellent. To describe the Park in one word I would say "Unique". Whilst working at the Park I have developed my skills further, in particular customer facing skills and I feel more confident."

**Full Name:** Vinay Ladhani | **Age:** 21 | **Borough:** Brent  
**How he first got involved:** Event Park Champion in July 2013  
**Starting situation:** Student  
**Current situation:** Casual Customer and Mobility Service Duty Manager

