



# VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

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# I. General

## Who we are

Cambridge Development Initiative is changing the way student volunteering is done.

We are a unique, student-led NGO. We take a holistic approach to tackling the key development issues in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, by piloting innovative, community-driven projects. We work in four project areas:

- WaSH
- Entrepreneurship
- Education
- Health

CDI was founded in 2013 by two Cambridge students who believed that changing the world begins with local changemakers, and that students could be the catalyst for this change:

*“We set up the Cambridge Development Initiative to push the limits of what university students can contribute towards sustainable global development. **Our theory: volunteers can offer more than free labour – they can bring fresh solutions, kickstart new initiatives and become a reliable partner for governments and communities in the developing world.** We believe this idea can change the world. By putting that theory into practice, CDI offers a once-in-a-lifetime experience that challenges **students from the UK and Tanzania to become men and women for others**, harnessing all that Cambridge University has to offer and creating pioneering solutions to the most pressing of global issues.”*

## Aims

- **Sustainability** - Build local networks to maximise sustainable impact
- **Impact** - Constantly analyse our strategies to maximise our potential impact
- **Collaboration** - Collaborate with and empower students, professionals and local communities in Tanzania

## 2. Program Outline

- Summer trip
  - 2 months in Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania (2019 dates were 28<sup>th</sup> July – 23<sup>rd</sup> September)
  - Volunteers will work in one project area (WaSH, entrepreneurship, education or health)
  - Travel is organised by CDI
  - We stay at Ardhi University in Dar Es Salaam in their student accommodation, and work within their classrooms. The university canteen and shops are conveniently located on the campus.
  - The working week is Monday to Saturday. On Sundays people often go sightseeing and visit Dar's beaches.
  - The work days are usually 8 hours long.
  - CDI Social Evenings are held on Wednesdays
  - There is a mid-trip getaway, around 5 days. Volunteers organise trips themselves and people usually go on trips to Zanzibar or to a National Park.
  - There is often a week at the end of project work to travel before the flight home.
  
- Lent Training
  - Volunteers will be required to attend approximately four sessions, each two hours long in Lent Term
  - These sessions will provide crucial preparation for your time in Dar
  - They will also equip you with invaluable skills for your career, such as Design Thinking and ME&L training (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning)

## 3. Funding

### Costs and Breakdown

- £700 volunteer payment
  - Volunteers are expected to pay around £700 to join the Summer Trip
  - This includes flights and accommodation, as well as a stipend that enables the Tanzanian students to volunteer with us cost-free
- ~£300 other expenses
  - Students can expect to incur around £300 for other expenses such as travel within Tanzania, food, excursions, and kit or medicines

### Funding

Our students usually secure funding from university institutions to cover the entire £700 payment. Please see this spreadsheet for further information about the available funding that has been granted to our volunteers in the past:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zDk0M6bt7zjaKRhMHkRqbue0rZGrAORiuAlmwyWwRgg/edit?usp=sharing>

## **4. Application process**

### **Timeline**

Volunteer applications open over the Christmas holidays.

This academic year they opened on 5th December, and will close on 13th January at 12pm.

Group interviews are held during the week following the application deadline, and we then invite applicants to individual interviews in the week after that.

### **Written application**

The written application is in the form of a google doc, where we ask applicants about their motivation for applying to CDI, as well as their preferred project area. Applicants are invited to tell us a bit about their past experience.

We are primarily looking for enthusiasm, and an awareness of the aims, approaches, and project areas of CDI.

### **Interview**

Interviews will first be held in groups to get to know the applicants and establish whether applicants work well in teams.

Applicants will then be invited to interview individually so we can assess whether they are suited to the role.

The interviews will be conducted by (usually two) members of our student-run committee.

## 5. Contact details

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeDevelopment>

**Website:** <http://www.cambridgedevelopment.org/>

**Email:** [info@cambridgedevelopment.org](mailto:info@cambridgedevelopment.org)

### **Former volunteers**

Michaela Chan - [micheala.chan@cambridgedevelopment.org](mailto:micheala.chan@cambridgedevelopment.org)

Emma Tinn - [eeot2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eeot2@cam.ac.uk)

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BLOG FOR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES: <https://cambridgedevelopment.wordpress.com/>

In particular, see:

<https://cambridgedevelopment.wordpress.com/2019/08/10/impressions-from-my-first-week/>

<https://cambridgedevelopment.wordpress.com/2018/09/15/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-wash-biogas-volunteer/>

<https://cambridgedevelopment.wordpress.com/2018/09/03/a-day-in-the-life-of-an-entrepreneurship-publicity-volunteer/>