

Using voluntary work to get ahead in the job market



The Open University

Worksheet 2

Practical considerations

You need a realistic assessment of any practical concerns that might affect your choice. The charts below are a prompt to help you. Larger voluntary organisations usually have their own charts to check time availability etc., but smaller ones will just ask these questions at an interview.

Again, there is usually a solution for any potential problem and these are suggested in the chart. Your choice might be a bit more restricted but there will still be plenty of activities to choose from.

Time available	How much?	When? (e.g. evenings only)	Regular commitment?	Problems? Try one-off projects, or residential stays in vacations. Also home-based work such as online research or writing
Location	Where can you travel to?	Would you go out of the county for a one-off project?	Can you spend time away from home?	Problems? If need to be home-based, there are many virtual volunteering activities – see Section 8 of the unit
Mobility/transport	Car driver, willing to use own car for activities	Can drive to a location	Relying on public transport	Problems? See above if housebound or try schemes run by those with disabilities – see www.do-it.org.uk/wanttovolunteer/aboutvolunteering/disabilities
Training/study	Prepared to undertake lengthy reading and research e.g. Samaritans, Citizens Advice?	Don't want to study too much, but would be happy to do some and a thorough induction	'Just want to turn up and do my bit'	Problems? Shouldn't be any problems, as long as you don't over-commit. Enormous range of activities covers all levels of commitment, although employers are obviously impressed by skills gained in high levels of training or study