



## TUTORIAL 6: PROGRESS, ULSTER GRADUATE AWARD AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The primary purpose of this tutorial is to reflect on your performance in semester 1 modules, and to provide information on the Ulster Graduate Award and volunteering opportunities that you could avail of.

### 1.1 Progress

Your semester 1 module results should be available at this stage to view on Portal. You will discuss these with your tutor in this session.

### 1.2 Ulster Graduate Award

#### What is it?

The Ulster Graduate Award is a UU scheme recognizing undergraduates who complete extracurricular activities (volunteering, work, training) to build skills, confidence, and networks, boosting employability and giving them a competitive edge for future careers beyond just their degree. It is therefore a formal recognition of skills and experiences gained *outside* of academic coursework.

To achieve it you need to complete:

- A minimum of 2 approved developmental extra-curricular activities
- The final application

To get started [Register for the Ulster Graduate Award](#)










#### Who is the GES UGA co-ordinator?

Dr Paul McKenzie is our School co-ordinator: [sjp.mckenzie@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:sjp.mckenzie@ulster.ac.uk)

#### Where can I get additional information on the UGA?

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/employability/graduate-award>

## What types of things count?

 <p><b>Volunteering</b></p> <p>Explore volunteering opportunities and secure Ulster Graduate Award recognition for any current volunteering experiences</p>	 <p><b>Employability &amp; Enterprise</b></p> <p>Employability &amp; Graduate Futures run a range of programmes you can use to achieve your Ulster Graduate Award.</p>	 <p><b>Student Success Centre</b></p> <p>Get Ulster Graduate Award recognition through the completion of a study skills module covering academic integrity, ethical use of AI,...</p>
 <p><b>Work Experience and Internships</b></p> <p>Internships, placements and other forms of work experience can count towards your Ulster Graduate Award journey</p>	 <p><b>Other Achievements and Qualifications</b></p> <p>Secure recognition for other achievements or additional training and qualifications</p>	 <p><b>Sustainability Related Activities</b></p> <p>From accredited Carbon Literacy Training through Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to self directed learning activities such as Nature Connectedness...</p>
 <p><b>UUSU and Student Voice Roles</b></p> <p>From Course Rep to Student Councillor, there are a range of UUSU roles that can help you achieve the Ulster...</p>	 <p><b>Global Experiences</b></p> <p>This section explains how you secure Ulster Graduate Award recognition for international study, work or volunteering experiences....</p>	 <p><b>Subject Specific Activities</b></p> <p>In many cases, your course team has created subject specific activities that perfectly compliment your main programme of study and...</p>

### 1.3 Volunteering opportunities

- Ulster Wildlife Trust – <https://www.ulsterwildlife.org/volunteering-opportunities>.
- Glens Red Squirrel Group - <https://glensredsquirrelgroup.com/>
- National Trust Volunteering - <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>
- The Tree Council - <https://treecouncil.org.uk/tree-wardens/>
- Belfast Hills Partnership:
  - The Hills Youth Ranger Programme requires volunteers to walk an assigned site in the hills once a month (flexible based on preferred time) and submit a short report outlining

any issues they come across during their patrol. There is some initial training but after the training volunteers would have a flexible schedule.

- A general volunteering programme which runs every Monday and Thursday and is flexible. Volunteers can come whenever they are free on those days, as long as they let the Volunteer Officer know beforehand.

- Volunteers also meet on Tuesdays at the BHP Tree Nursery which is also flexible. The BHP have more capacity for this option during the winter period before the bird nesting season starts at the beginning of March.

- If interested in any of these roles, email the Volunteer Officer at BHP, Aodhan ([aodhan.o'kane@belfasthills.org](mailto:aodhan.o'kane@belfasthills.org)).

- The Conservation Volunteers - <https://www.tcv.org.uk/northernireland/volunteering/>

- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/support-the-rspb/volunteering/rspb-volunteering-opportunities>

- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) - <https://www.bto.org/how-you-can-help/take-part-project/volunteering>

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