

LGBTQ+ Mythbusters Role Description

Overview

LGBTQ+ Mythbusters are students who go into secondary schools to speak to students (16-18 year olds) candidly about their experiences, both in terms of their sexuality and/or identity, their coming out process and also about University life in broader terms.

Mythbusters are put into teams (minimum two people per team) and allocated to a group of approximately 30 students. Students ask their questions anonymously by writing them on post-it notes and submitting them. The Mythbusters then pull the questions individually and can choose whether or not they wish to answer them. All groups are supervised by a teacher from the School.

The aim is for young people to be able to ask questions in a safe and supportive environment that they may not previously have felt comfortable or able to ask, to find out more about life in University for someone who identifies as LGBTQ+ and also to ask questions about their own experiences and emotions that they may be unsure about from someone who truly understands what it is like.

Volunteer Role Description

- The Volunteer must identify as one, or more, or any combination of the following (please note that this list is not exhaustive); A-Sexual, Bi-Gender, Bi-Sexual, Gay, Gender Fluid, Gender Neutral, Gender Non-Conforming, Gender Queer, Intersex, Lesbian, Non-Binary, Omnisexual, Pansexual, Pomosexual, Queer, Questioning, Transgender (Man or Woman).
- The Volunteer must be prepared to answer potentially personal questions about their own experiences, sexuality and/or gender identity (although the Volunteer can opt out of answering any questions that they are not able to answer or not comfortable in answering).
- The Volunteer must have a good understanding of the broader challenges and experiences (both positive and negative) facing LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as an understanding of and ability to explain terminology and phrases.
- The Volunteer must not have a criminal record.
- The Volunteer must be prepared to act in a professional manner, recognising that they are representing the University of Kent in a School environment (e.g. no swearing).
- The Volunteer must be prepared to commit to at least 1 School visit and training session (the equivalent of 1 working day commitment).

Commitment

- Each school session lasts for approximately 1 hour, plus transport time to get to the School (currently Broadstairs, Wye, Ashford or Gravesend).
- Students must commit to training and at least 1 school visit.
- Visits can be in the spring or summer terms, or the summer vacation period

Training

1 hour training session provided by the University to cover child protection, session format and practice responses to typical questions that may be asked. Training will be interactive and volunteers will have the opportunity to step down after training if they wish to do so.

Volunteer Benefit

All volunteers will be entitled to claim Employability Points in recognition of their commitment to the role. This is also a great opportunity for students who are looking at career fields in the education, social services or youth work sectors as well as students who wish to improve the lives and awareness of young people currently in secondary education.

Any students interested should contact Becky Lamyman, Student EDI Officer, on R.S.Lamyman@kent.ac.uk with a completed expression of interest form