Volunteering FAQs

We get asked a lot of questions about how you can become a NYAS volunteer and what is involved, so we've tried to answer as many of these as we can in our **frequently asked questions** (FAQs) below.

If you can't find the answer you are looking for then please contact us on **0151 649 8700** or **volunteering@nyas.net**

How old do I need to be to volunteer?
To volunteer as an Independent Visitor you will need to be 18 or over. For a Peer Mentor you will need to be 16 or over. There is no upper age limit for our volunteers.

Will I need a DBS check?
Yes for both roles a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is required to check whether you have a criminal record. DBS checks are carried out free for volunteers and don't worry we'll provide you with full information and guidance.

What is a Digital Risk Assessment (DRA)?
A DRA is an assessment of a person's attributable, digital activities, actions, contributions and communications that are openly visible online. This is part of our safer recruitment processes. This is free for volunteers and we will provide you with full guidance on how to apply for your DRA

I have a criminal record – can I still volunteer?
Yes, but you need to tell us when you apply for a volunteer role. If you have a criminal record we will make a case–by–case decision about whether or not you can volunteer in the role.

I don't have much time – can I still volunteer?
For an Independent Visitor we do ask that you commit to a few hours a month for a minimum of 2 years. For Peer Mentoring volunteering we ask for at least 6 months' commitment so that you and the person you are supporting can get the most out of the experience.

I'm a student. How can my university help support NYAS?
Are you a member of your university's RAG society? If so, we'd love you to choose us to be your university's charity of the year. You can either nominate us to your RAG society or email volunteering@nyas.net to let us know how we can apply.

Will volunteering affect my benefits?
Volunteering shouldn't affect your benefits but we suggest you ask for advice from the Job Centre or your employment advisor.

Will volunteering cost me anything?
No. NYAS will pay agreed out-of-pocket expenses that you may have whilst volunteering (e.g. travel / meals / activity costs whilst volunteering).

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Will I have to do an interview?
All our roles require interviews but please don't be put off as these are not in the same format as a job interview. Our interviews are friendly and informal and our opportunity to get to know you better and give you the chance to ask any questions or raise concerns.

Will I need to give references?
Yes. References are required for all our volunteer roles. However, these don't need to be work references and can be personal references provided they are not from direct family members.

Will you provide me with a reference when I have finished volunteering for you?
Yes. You can ask for a reference or certificate of achievement upon leaving, or sooner if you need one for a job or college application.

How long will it be from when I apply to when I start volunteering?
We want to get you signed up and volunteering as quickly as possible but sometimes DBS checks and references mean the process can be delayed. Please ask timings regarding your specific role.

What training will I receive as a volunteer?
Comprehensive training and support will be **provided for all our volunteering roles.**

What support will I receive?
You will have regular contact with your direct line manager who you can go to for help, support and guidance.

Does NYAS offer internships?
We don't currently offer internships at NYAS. When opportunities for paid roles arise they are advertised on our **jobs website**. We recommend signing up for **job alerts** so that you are amongst the first to know when new jobs arise.

Can I get support to volunteer if I have a disability?
Yes. Please get in touch at volunteering@NYAS.net so we can discuss any additional support or adjustments you may need



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