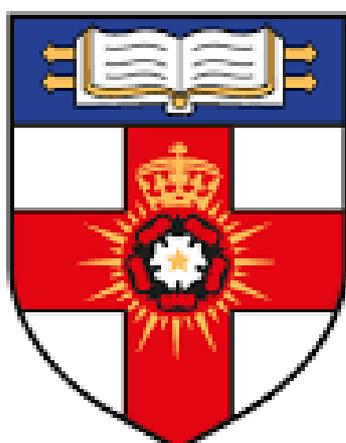


University of London Master's in International Relations Volunteering Programme 2018-2019



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**
**INSTITUTE
IN PARIS**

Bienvenue and Welcome!

Welcome to Paris and the MA IR programme at ULIP!

This volunteering programme is based upon the experience of two MA IR students in 2017-2018 who decided to put their learning into practice and 'do international relations'. Whilst being based in Paris there are many opportunities to get involved with politics from the JDI programme run by Science Po to internships with UNESCO HQ etc. but this programme offers the chance to really make a difference and see your effect on people's lives.

We are offering all the information for you to spend time volunteering in Calais, Northern France, working with up to 8 different charities doing anything from chopping onions with Refugee Community Kitchen to help serve the 2700 meals they make daily to sorting blankets in the Warehouse with Help Refugees in the cold months. You will have the opportunity to undertake specified field training from long-term volunteers and if you stay there long enough and tensions are not too high at the distribution points you may have the chance to help on the distributions.

This brochure provides all the details to organise yourself for an independent trip from Paris to Calais however if there are enough students that register their interest at the beginning of term by filling in the form at the end of this pack a trip will be co-ordinated for the entire group.

We hope you decide to get involved during your time in Paris and make the most of every moment here because your time will go so quickly!

If you have any questions about the volunteering programme, the master's programme or life in Paris please feel free to get in contact.

(All the information here is correct at the time of publication)

Good Luck,

Kate Rist and Harley-Jane Dority



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Why should I volunteer in Calais?

In August 2015, Help Refugees was just a hashtag - #HelpCalais. It was a campaign set up by a group of friends in response to the growing refugee crisis. None of them had experience working in humanitarian aid, but after raising more money than expected, they decided to throw their all into it. Two years later, Help Refugees is the largest facilitator of grassroots aid in Europe, carrying out the work of governments and major aid organisations with a fraction of the budget. They are the main suppliers of aid in Calais and Dunkirk and have expanded to Greece, Syria, Serbia, Italy, Croatia, the UK, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon.

L'Auberge des Migrants was formed in 2007 by a group of retired French teachers and artists. For eight years, they were one of the only grassroots organisations supplying aid to camps in and around Calais - with a tiny fraction of the volunteers and the funding that we now have.

Help Refugees partnered with L'Auberge to form an umbrella organisation, and they opened a warehouse about 500m from the current one in early September 2015. At the time, the warehouse was nothing but a pile of clothes vaguely sorted into some semblance of order. They had no racking. No hot food team. No dry food team. No build team or coherent distribution strategies. No wood yard. They had a lot of volunteers, but no systems in place. They moved into this warehouse one month later, by which time organisations had already evolved rapidly.

The whole organisation has been built on the tremendous hard work of volunteers, both short and long term, and by a never-ending series of trials and errors. It is not perfect - but it is important to bear in mind that the systems and rules that are now in place have come from the experience learned the hard way.

After the Calais "Jungle" was demolished and the people dispersed, after the fire that devastated the Grande Synthe camp, we are still supporting many hundreds of refugees in the area who are all currently homeless, and without provision of shelter, hygiene and sanitation provisions. In February 2018 we estimate approximately 1,500 people rough in the forests in northern France, including approximately 200 unaccompanied minors. The youngest lone child is

just nine years old. The police regularly confiscate items such as blankets, sleeping bags and clothes, and minimal washing facilities have been put in place after Help Refugees, L'Auberge des Migrants and other local organisations took the French authorities to court due to living conditions.

Practical Information

How to get there

From Paris there are fairly frequent trains to Calais which is the quickest way to get there, taking just under 2 hours direct.

Trains go from **Paris Gare du Nord** to **Calais Ville** directly.

(There are more trains from Paris Gare du Nord to Calais Fréthun which is a station in the suburbs – if you decide to get this train you will have to take the free train shuttle from Fréthun to Ville on the opposite platform that goes twice every hour).

Tickets can be booked at: www.goeuro.com for €40-€50

(this will be the most expensive part of your trip but the earlier you book the cheaper the tickets will be).

To get to the warehouse from here walk down the road and take the number 1B from Theatre stop to Kohl stop (you will see the giant Lidl) and the warehouse is just down from here. Bus tickets are €1.25 each ride.

When you arrive at the warehouse head to the main office (you will see it right in front of you) and let the team know you have arrived and fill in the registration form to make sure you are covered under L'Auberge des Migrants insurance to volunteer. Speak up if you have any special skills from teaching to plumbing as you are invaluable and anything you can do will be greatly appreciated.

A hearty lunch will be provided for volunteers each day and there is plenty of food and snacks to take home for your dinner!

If you arrive after 6pm the warehouse will be closed so head to your accommodation and aim to be at the warehouse for the 9am briefing.

Where to stay

There are two main options for accommodation whilst in Calais.

1. Airbnb:

When we volunteered we stayed in a perfect Airbnb apartment that cost us €90 for 2 nights, so €45 each but this apartment could house up to 6 people sharing. If there is a small group of you I would recommend it because it gave you the freedom to have a private warm shower! If you decide to go with this option, there is a bus stop Lafayette right outside the apartment which is on line 1B which goes straight to the warehouse.

The link is here: <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/15177466>

2. Centre Européen De Séjour: Auberge De Jeunesse Hostel:

The other option is staying in the hostel and if we organise the group trip this will be where you will be staying if the group is more than 6 people.

The hostel offers a volunteer discount of €17 per night if you stay more than 3 nights otherwise beds will be in twin or triple rooms at €25 per night. Many other volunteers stay here so if you are going alone this is the place to stay!

There is a direct bus link to the warehouse from here too.

The link is here: <http://www.auberge-jeunesse-calais.com/en/>

What to take

Calais can be very cold so plenty of layers and wrap up warm! It can also get very wet and the warehouse is dusty and scruffy, so waterproofs and old practical clothes are a must.

- Bring a water bottle for the warehouse as it is thirsty work (tea and coffee will be provided in copious amounts)
- Small Backpack or bag to keep your personal items in for when you are in the warehouse
- Hair ties are needed for working in the kitchen

Apart from these things for you, if you can bring donations they will be very much appreciated.

You can check the list of what is most needed here but bring anything you can:

<https://helprefugees.org.uk/calais/needs-list>

If possible speak to your MA IR SU Rep to organise a bulk collection at ULIP with the postgrads, undergrads and staff!

Registration Form

If you are interested in joining the volunteer programme please fill in the form below and email it to k.rist@hss17.gmul.ac.uk by **Friday 12th October 2018** if there is enough interest I will co-ordinate the programme for a group trip, if not, please follow this link to register as a volunteer directly with Help Refugees: [http://help-refugees.force.com/volunteer/HR Calais Signup](http://help-refugees.force.com/volunteer/HR_Calais_Signup)

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Email Address:.....

Date of Birth:.....

Nationality:.....

Mobile Phone Number:.....
(with country code)

Most Suitable Dates:
(please circle your availability or preference)

24th-26th November

26th -28th January

9th-11th February

Autumn Term Reading Week

Spring Term Reading Week