

Our Erasmus+ experience in Oxfam (Oxford)

This article is about our experience in Oxfam shops. We'd like to share it and to make our Erasmus project (developed with our partner, Oxfam G.B.) known. This project has enabled some Spanish students to carry out their internships in Oxfam shops for two years.

We are Elisa Castillo and Jesus Ruiz, Spanish Erasmus Coordinators. We work as teachers in Federico García Lorca High School. It's located in Albacete (Spain) and it's one of the largest Secondary schools in Castilla-La Mancha, in terms of the students. The Vocational Training courses offered belong to the Business Administration and Commerce sector. Our Erasmus+ project is called "GARCIA LORCA'S VOCATIONAL TRAINING INTERMEDIATE CYCLE MOBILITIES" and it's financed by the European Union.



To date, and thanks to this project, six students have carried out their internships in Oxford in the following shops:

- Oxfam shop, 17 Broad St.
- Oxfam shop, 133-135 Cowley Rd.
- Oxfam shop, 83-85 London Rd.

Periods of time: from April to June, 2018 and 2019. In the aggregate, each student has completed a 400-hour internship per year.

As a result of this experience, our students have achieved to improve their professional, linguistic and social skills and they have also learnt about other cultural realities.



Internships in Oxfam shops

Over the course of the training, our students have learnt how Oxfam Shops operate and assisted the shop managers in running the shop including taking charge of them in their absence.



These key areas were included:

- Team leadership: recruitment, induction and training of new volunteers.
- Shop management: sorting and pricing donations within each of the shop's departments, display of stock and management of new products.
- Finance: till operation, end of day and end of week cashing up processes, and operation of Gift Aid.
- Oxfam's work: gain an understanding of Oxfam's values and how they are relevant in their shops and an insight into Oxfam's work worldwide.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who made this project possible:

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- Area Manager: Jon Adsett
- Managers: Dage Loranca, Nikolitsa Kolokitha, Laura Jones and Fiona Hurman
- Deputy managers: Simon Ewens, Elizabeth Shand and James Evans
- All volunteers who have helped our students become a member core of Oxfam team



We hope that is not the end because we'd like to continue with our relationship in the future.
Thanks and see you soon.