

# VOLUNTEER FOR READ

## INFORMATION PACK



**Saving Books. Empowering Young Global Citizens**

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## What is READ all about?

### *Education – Leadership – Empowerment – Global Citizenship*

READ International delivers collaborative, student led initiatives to improve access to education across the world and increase youth participation in the global community.

**We see a world where young global citizens achieve development through the power of education.**

*Action....*We take a 'never say never' attitude to global issues and embrace all things innovative, exciting and resourceful. We have a bias for action and we never shy away from a challenge.

*Cross Cultural....*We open young people's minds and encourage them to become global citizens. We believe that an informed global community will find the solutions to world issues.

*Youth Led....*We rely on the spirit of young people, their passion for volunteering and their interest in the global community. We never take this for granted, we listen to their voice and let them take the lead.

*Collaborative....*We firmly believe that there is no limit to the things we can achieve when we all work together. We bring together a variety of individuals, groups, communities, and cultures to achieve our mission.

*Win-Win....*There is a mutuality to everything we do; from our student volunteers; our beneficiaries in East Africa and right through to our corporate partners. Everybody benefits from READ's great work.

## READ: A short history

- READ was founded by a group of socially entrepreneurial students in Nottingham following a 'gap year' teaching in Tanzania.
- We began life in 2003 as a single Book Project on one university campus.
- In 2006, 50,000 textbooks and other educational resources sent to secondary schools in Tanzania by a group of student friends at university.
- That same year, students registered the concept as a charity and READ International was born.
- Word quickly spread and we quickly replicated the model across the UK.
- We implemented our Book Project model at 5 universities across England, and by August 2007 delivered over 98,000 textbooks to Tanzanian schools.
- In late 2007, we expanded further to a total of 11 Book Projects and READ International was launched on the national stage in the House of Commons.
- To date, we have 22 universities involved and have shipped a total of 350,000 books to Tanzania. We have also sent several tonnes of sports kits, science equipment, and school stationery. **All of this thanks to our wonderful student volunteers!**

What began as a pipe dream operating from a student hall of residence, now has a full time staff team coordinating a national operation from a generously donated London office.



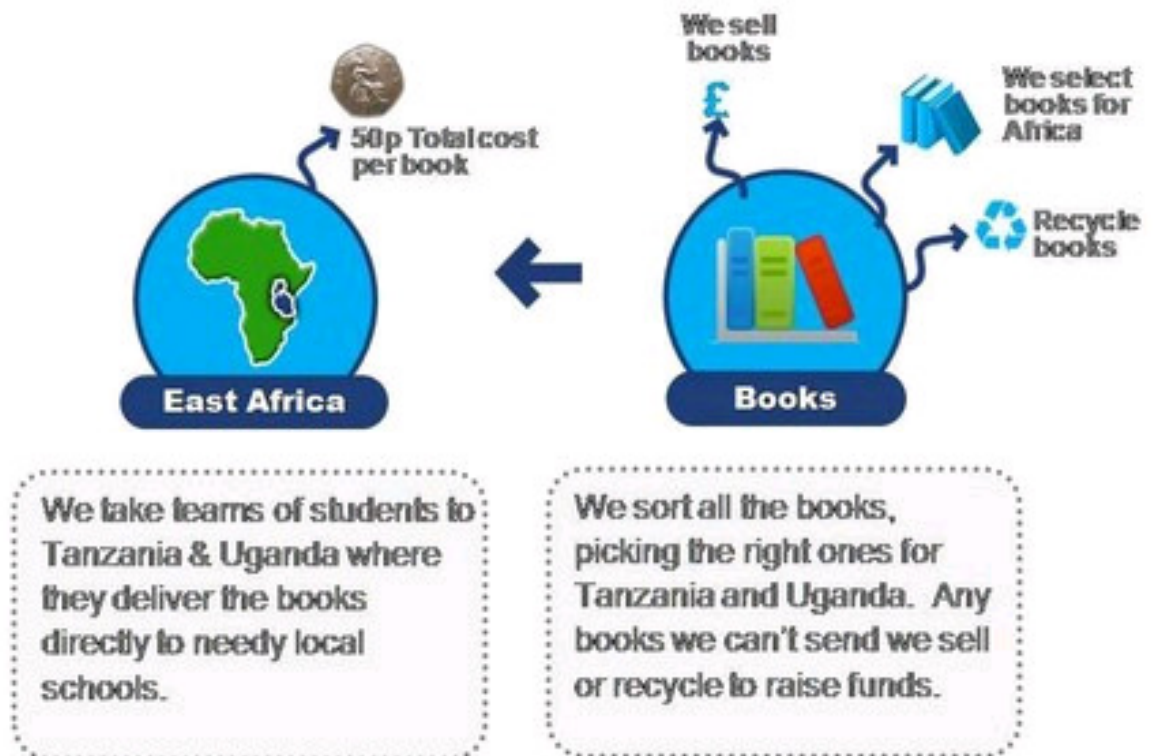
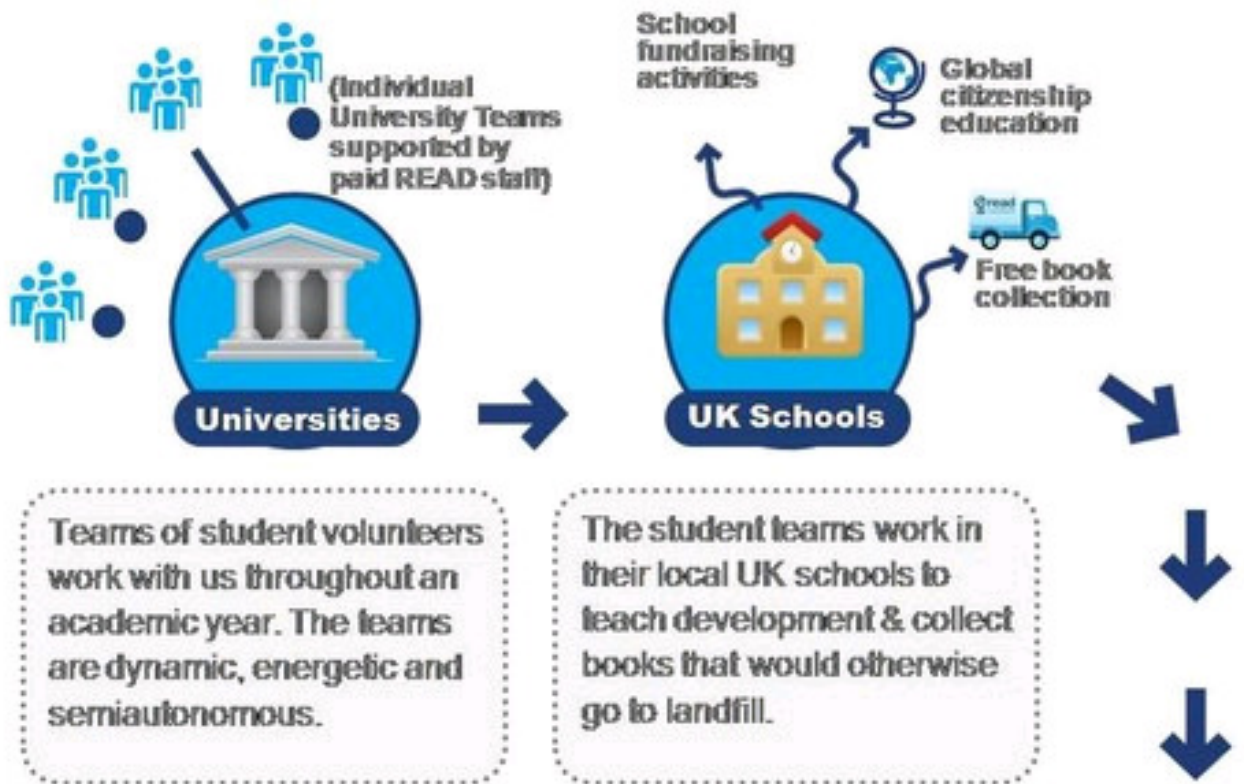
Amongst many other awards recognising READ's outstanding achievements, READ International has recently been awarded '**Best New Charity**' in the Charity Times Awards 2007.

## The READ Book Project

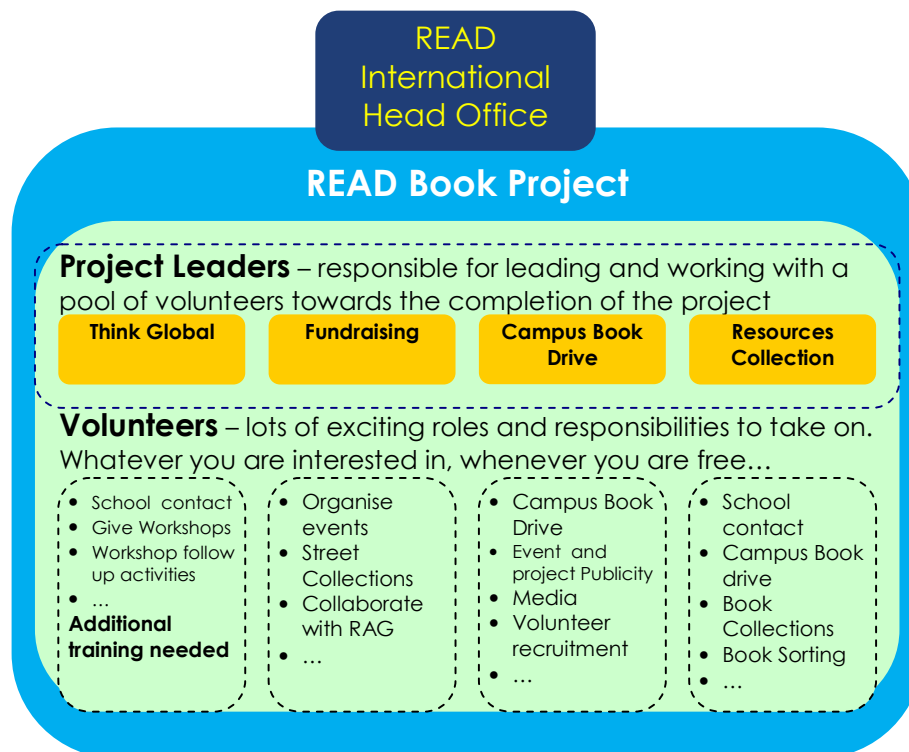
Using its very low cost and efficient book project model, READ International sets up projects in universities around the UK, each of which are run by student volunteers. This allows for our volunteers to get hands on experience in working for an international development organization.

In each project, volunteers collect school textbooks and children's literature from within their region, sort the books and send the relevant, up-to-date, and high quality books to schools in Tanzania and Uganda. Any books collected which are not relevant to their curriculum or are not appropriate for a school child are sold on-line to generate funds to ship the ones that are and pay for new books produced locally.

Tanzania and Uganda follow a secondary school syllabus almost identical to the UK, but teachers and students often lack essential resources. In the UK, new editions of books replace the old (often only a couple of years old though) which makes for good quality, but technically 'out of date' textbooks filling up school store rooms or ending up in landfill. The solution is obvious. We contact local secondary schools and collect all disused books, sort them and ship the most relevant ones to place where they are in high demand.



## The READ Book Project Model



## The READ Book Project

One of the objectives of the READ Book Project is to mobilise university students to collect disused, high-quality Key Stage 3 and GCSE textbooks from UK secondary schools and ship them to Tanzania or Uganda at the end of the academic year. In order to fulfill this aim, the project must also involve fundraising, to cover the cost of book collection, as well as campus book drives. Books collected in schools or on campus and around the community through Book Drives are sorted based on criteria of what is relevant to be sent to Tanzania. The books collected that cannot be sent to Tanzania are scanned and sent to our partner – Better World Books – who endeavor to sell books online to generate money for READ and other literacy charities. Through this partnership, we are therefore able to fulfill our values and find the best possible outlet for our disused books.

Another aim of the project is to raise awareness of the importance of global issues in UK secondary schools. Volunteers are trained to deliver a workshop programme called ‘Think Global’, developed in partnership with Oxfam GB. We want to use

these innovative and dynamic workshops to demonstrate the similarities between young people in Tanzania and the UK and convey the injustice of a global situation where some young people simply do not get quality education. Our volunteers use their own experiences to inspire students to realise their potential as active global citizens. They promote student volunteering, young social enterprise, recycling and the importance of education. Our follow up projects also engage school students in book collecting, campaigning and fundraising.

The READ Book Project takes one academic year from start to finish. It relies on **4 student project leaders** who are responsible for the four aspects of the project: **Fundraising, Campus Book Drive, Resources Collection, and Think Global.**

## The Project Leader role descriptions

As previously mentioned, each book project is run by project leaders who are expected to work together throughout the year for the good functioning and completion of their project. Each project leader takes on one aspect of the project which they are responsible for throughout the year.

In a **READ Book Project**, the project leader roles are:

**Campus Book Drive** – responsible for coordinating the collection of books from the main university campus, most of which will not be suitable for Tanzania but can be sold through our partners Better World Books to add another funding stream to the project.

They also have some additional responsibilities including planning, organising and coordinating meetings (agenda, minutes, follow up), sending regular project updates to their assigned READ International point of contact, setting up and updating the project webpage and Facebook group, organising publicity coverage for fundraising and other project events.

**Fundraising** – responsible for leading a team in raising a grand total of £7,500 towards READ International project costs. They must plan and organise fundraising events, contact local trust funds and businesses for funding and motivate their volunteers to plan their own fundraising events. They must also keep track of the project finances.

**Resources Collection** – responsible for leading volunteers in gathering approximately 40,000 textbooks and other educational resources, including sports equipment and teaching aids and collecting them at a central location. They must then coordinate sorting through the textbooks, matching the relevant books, of which there are usually 25,000, to the Tanzanian syllabus and planning for the books to be ready to be shipped.

**Think Global** – responsible for leading volunteers in delivering workshops to key stage 3 students in local secondary schools. They are responsible for recruiting 5 other volunteers to be trained to deliver these workshops by READ International and Oxfam. Any school that is interested in a workshop will then have to be contacted and a workshop (delivered by 1 or 2 trained volunteers) planned. They will then provide the schools with the materials they need to deliver subsequent lessons which will lead the students to carry out a fundraising event, a book drive or a campaign. The Think Global Project Intern should also arrange follow up visits to schools that have completed READ event's to feedback and thank them for their hard work.

**All four project leaders** work together towards recruiting volunteers and the completion of the project. Volunteers should get involved in all four aspects of the project when possible.

## Why get involved?

### *10 reasons why you should get involved:*

1. It's fun – a lot of fun!
2. Working with an exciting new project as well as with an award winning organisation and partners such as Oxfam
3. It's a great opportunity to meet and work with like-minded people
4. There are a variety of ways you can get involved
5. Getting hands on experience in running a development project
6. Being part of a network of over 500 volunteers around the country
7. Making a tangible difference in your local community
8. Helping children in Tanzania and Uganda have access to books and a more healthy learning environment
9. Having the opportunity to go to Tanzania over the summer to take part in distributing the books
10. Enhancing your skills and improving your CV

Here are some examples of **skills and experiences you will gain** and develop through getting involved with the READ Book Project:

- Event planning on and off campus
- Advertising and media skills
- Getting volunteers motivated and involved
- Managing volunteers
- Team work
- Organisational skills
- Professional contacts with schools and local businesses
- Teaching experience
- And much more...

## How can I get involved?

### ***Become a Project Leader***

Each project leading position will require a commitment of roughly **10 hours a week**. The workload will vary at different times in the year. Regardless of their individual position, each project leader is committed to the project and its good functioning throughout the year. This leadership position is a wonderful opportunity to develop skills in project and volunteer management, event planning, time management and organisation.

Anyone interested in becoming a project leader will need to fill in an application form and will be subject to an interview.

If you are interested in applying, please email us to express your interest.

### ***Become a Volunteer***

If you are keen to get involved but are not ready to commit to taking up a project leader position, why not become a volunteer? Join a project at your university or close to you and be part of the team of volunteers helping out with the various activities of the project.

As a volunteer you can get involved by fulfilling a specific role assigned to you by a project leader (be part of the trained group of volunteers who deliver Think Global workshops or event publicity team) or through helping out on an ad hoc basis by organising an event, driving a van, planning a university books drive, helping out with book sorting, contact local schools, give a presentation or a workshop in a school and plenty of other things.

You can volunteer for as many hours as you like depending on your interest and commitment. Whatever time you wish to give us will be greatly valued and essential to the successful completion of the project.

The most committed volunteers will have the opportunity to go to Tanzania or Uganda over the summer to take part in the distribution of the books and the library refurbishment project.

## Am I eligible?

### ***To be a Project Leader***

Project leaders are young men and women students who want to make a difference while at university. Project leaders are ambassadors of READ both in their university and in their community. They are motivated and enthusiastic students who have a high degree of maturity, integrity and commitment. They should not be afraid of a challenge and be ready to honour a year long commitment.

*Will you be a university student in the next academic year?*

*Are you motivated and driven?*

*Are you interested in joining a nation wide network of volunteers?*

*Are you keen to work for an international charity?*

*Can you work with others towards achieving common goals?*

If you have answered yes to the questions above, you are eligible to become a project leader, so why not apply?

### ***To be a volunteer***

Our volunteers are what keep READ going. Their enthusiasm and readiness to help makes it all happen.

You do not need specific skills or qualities to become a volunteer. Everyone is welcome to volunteer with READ be it for an hour, a day or the whole year.

Even if you are unsure, try it out, it will be a great experience!

## I'm interested! How can I apply?

It's easy! Whether you wish to become a project leader or a volunteer, simply inform us of your interest by email or phone and we will send you the relevant information.

### Your email should include:

Your name

You surname

The name of the university you will be attending from September 2010

The year of study you will be in

How you would like to get involved (volunteer, become a project leader, specific interests ...)

If you are interested in applying to become a project leader, please email or call us.

**Email:** [info@readinternational.org.uk](mailto:info@readinternational.org.uk)

## Questions?

*Is it really possible to collect 25 000 textbooks, 3000 books through university books drives and £7.500 in one year?* True, it is not an easy task! But with a lot of helping hands, energy and a positive and enthusiastic attitude, it is possible. We have been running Book Projects for the past 5 years in universities around the UK and it works! University students are so motivated to get something valuable out of their university experience; it is such a rewarding project.

*Where do the books come from?*

Our main textbook collections are targeted at local secondary schools. Each project is responsible for contacting schools in their target area to ask for support in donating their spare books and other resources such as sports equipment, stationary, etc. Each project is also responsible for organising campus book drives to collect second hand or new books from other students or university staff.

*Where are all the books going?*

After they are collected and stored, all the books are sorted using strict guidelines. The books relevant to the Tanzanian & Ugandan syllabus are packed to be sent and distributed to schools in both countries over the summer. The remaining books are sent to our partner, Better World Books, to be sold online and generate money to support the projects. Any books that can't be sent or sold are recycled.

*Why Tanzania? Why Uganda?*

The Tanzanian and Ugandan secondary school syllabus are almost identical to the UK syllabus, but as they are two of the poorest nations in the world, teachers often lack the resources needed to teach.

## Contact us

If you have any (other) questions or to find out more about READ International and how you can help, visit [www.readinternational.org.uk](http://www.readinternational.org.uk)

**Email us** - [info@readinternational.org.uk](mailto:info@readinternational.org.uk)

**Call us** - 020 303 191 16

Or **write us a card** 😊

***READ International***

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37 Albert Embankment

Vauxhall, London

SE1 7TL



## COLLECT

Anyone donates their unwanted books.



## SORT

Volunteers sort and send the books needed in Tanzania.



## GENERATE

Better World Books help us sell the other books online to generate needed funding.



## DISTRIBUTE

Volunteers deliver books to school children in Tanzania.



## RECYCLE

Any books that can't be sent or sold are recycled to generate needed funding.

**READ International**  
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**WINNER**  
Best New Charity

**2007**  
charitytimes Awards

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