

AIESEC UK Strategic University Partnership

What is AIESEC?

AIESEC is the world's largest, youth led organisation. Our core activities are focused on activating youth leadership and facilitating a global youth exchange scheme that provides challenging, cultural work placements for students and recent graduates. Established since 1948 we are now operating in over 100 countries and 1,700 universities.

Our aim is to empower other young people like us to develop their leadership and professional skills to change the world for the better. AIESEC provides its members with an integrated development experience during and after university comprised of leadership opportunities, international internships and participation in a global learning environment.

AIESEC is a non-political, independent and not-for-profit organisation run entirely by students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education. In the UK we are a registered charity (no. 274779) with 23 university chapters and a sabbatical team based in London.

AIESEC's Exchange Programme provides students and recent graduates with the opportunity to take up a professional work placement at the same time as living an invaluable cultural experience in a country different to their own. With placements in management, technical, educational and development fields lasting from between six weeks to eighteen months, the programme, which is ongoing throughout the year, provides a great deal of flexibility.

What can AIESEC add to your campus?

When AIESEC and a university decide to work together, added value is generated for our many mutual stakeholders. By working together in partnership we benefit:

1. Your students:

- Enterprise Education

AIESEC has a unique approach to enterprise education. We provide young people with a framework that enables us to experience firsthand how business works, learn how to recognise what it is the market needs and discover what it takes to sell a product.

AIESEC members are true entrepreneurs, leading their own business, creating their own strategies and running their own projects, all within a global context.

- Internationalism

Internationalism has been highlighted by top employers as a key skill most UK graduates lack. AIESEC's unique platform develops a global mindset and fosters international awareness through our international internships, conferences, online platforms and focus on facilitating our global exchange programme.

An AIESEC internship provides the participant with a deep and meaningful cultural experience where they are immersed in an unfamiliar and challenging environment.

- Employability

AIESEC places its graduates a cut above the rest with refined soft skills, leadership experiences and a local, national and global network of contacts. AIESEC graduates are heavily sought after by

employers due to the attention that has been placed on the development of their competencies alongside their academic studies. An AIESEC graduate will have gained self awareness and business savvy as well as a degree.

2. Your local business market and graduate recruiters:

- Access Global Talent

Every AIESEC university can offer employers talented international graduates through the AIESEC exchange scheme. Candidates on the scheme provide hard to find skill sets or specific languages and market knowledge, making the programme a useful compliment to existing university placement programmes. With thousands of candidates available at any point in time, many with post-graduate qualifications and up to two years of relevant work experience, an AIESEC intern is an attractive addition to the employer services a university can boast. Multi-nationals, SMEs and local government alike already participate in this valuable programme throughout the UK.

3. Your local community:

- School and community projects

AIESEC has recently launched a number of school based projects that have seen students from our universities building ties throughout the local community. Two great examples are the Integrate project run in Birmingham and the Cultural Education project run in Sheffield.

Integrate in Birmingham has witnessed groups of AIESEC interns from Poland working across several primary schools with teachers and pupils to integrate Polish kids living in the UK into the classroom and the playground. Children have been moved up maths sets and have started to make friends because now they can understand.

Our Cultural Education Project in Sheffield brought AIESEC interns from across the globe to come to the UK to share their culture with primary school children through the medium of theatre and art. Children that had previously not had the opportunity to experience other cultures learnt that people who may look different hold many of the same values and their food can be better than your packed lunch.

4. Your alumni:

Students involved in AIESEC become very passionate about the organisation and the charitable aims it holds. When we work to reengage our alumni they very often comment on how they find supporting AIESEC a really exciting way to reconnect and give back to a part of their university.

An alum's memory of their AIESEC experience is most often a memorable one and one of an organisation that empowered them to learn and build a network of friends. As a result of this connection, and the position their AIESEC experience aided them to reach, AIESEC can be highly effective at recruiting alumni support.

- Mentorship

Many AIESEC alumni mentor current students, as well as those graduated, that are involved in AIESEC. Through coaching the committee, offering AIESEC placements or positions at their organisations and simply offering some advice and guidance to those following in their footsteps, our alumni are always keen to give back.

- Donations

Our alumni are often generous in this regard, whether it is a new computer for the university's AIESEC office or sponsorship of the committee's flights to a global conference, the skills they learnt in AIESEC have usually assisted their rise to whatever position they currently hold and many of our alumni like to say thank you.

5. Your reputation:

- Admissions

"I only applied to universities that had an AIESEC committee because I know how important it is to have done extra things in addition to your degree and AIESEC really does offer so many more opportunities than anything else on campus."

- Beth Clapham, Currently studying LLB in Law with Spanish
- AIESEC member at the University of Sheffield

Young people recognise that the integrated development experience AIESEC provides is truly unique. From deciding where to do your masters so that you can continue your AIESEC experience to choosing which institutions to consider for your BA after hearing about AIESEC at a presentation in school, AIESEC has and does continue to influence where individuals apply to study for both undergraduate and postgraduate education.

- Graduate destination and employer retention rates

"In our experience, AIESEC graduates are more proactive, motivated and experienced and are able to take on a higher level of responsibility than a typical graduate."

- Ewan Cameron, CFO, GE Money UK

Through AIESEC's exchange scheme we directly place thousands of graduating students in paid internships every year. Furthermore, as a result of the extra experience our members have AIESEC increases the demand for a recruiter to employ an AIESEC graduate over and above a regular student.

- Community involvement

AIESEC's school projects and others, provide a very tangible way for students to constructively interact with the local community and represent the university through demonstrating all that is good about the institution and intent of its students.

- National University Competitions

Annually AIESEC runs a host of inter university competitions including a national Leadership Tournament, Entrepreneur Challenge and Work Experience Contest. In addition to the publicity generated around our competitions, AIESEC provides a platform for universities to be represented through the various youth leadership conferences, seminars and summits organised both nationally and globally.

- University Leadership Awards

AIESEC has recently launched its Leading University Awards. These awards recognise the UK's higher education institutions that are leading the way in providing students with a platform to practically develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills coupled with actively encouraging cultural sensitivity and social responsibility.

What alumni have said about AIESEC:

"AIESEC gave me the wide range of essential transferable skills I needed to enter the world of work after graduating and ultimately becoming a successful entrepreneur. The skills and competencies I was able to develop and the international experiences I was able to take advantage of through AIESEC will serve me for the rest of my life. Before graduating I was already in a position to confidently engage with employers who could really see the value in my experiences alongside my academic achievements."

- James Eder, Co-Founder & Director, studentbeans.com
- AIESEC at the University of Birmingham alum

What the United Nations has said about AIESEC:

“The United Nations has long recognised that the imagination, ideals and energies of young men and women are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. And since its inception in 1948, AIESEC has contributed to this development by serving as an agent of positive change through education and cultural exchange. In an era of globalisation, AIESEC’s programmes have helped young people around the world to develop a broader understanding of cultural, socio-economic and business management issues.”

- Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General

In the future we hope that universities will:

- ✓ Support student entrepreneurs, including AIESEC members, by providing basic facilities such as office space with internet access and a phone line.
- ✓ Support AIESEC by providing advice and guidance to the local AIESEC committee.
- ✓ Provide an international element to their education through partnering with AIESEC to establish specific work abroad programmes for university courses.
- ✓ Fund delegate places to national and global conferences.
- ✓ Universities will formally recognise student involvement in AIESEC by accrediting the work that goes into running the charities programmes.
- ✓ Promote AIESEC’s Access Global Talent programme as part of the university’s portfolio of services to the business community.
- ✓ Financially support the valuable activities of AIESEC members to integrate international school children and/or providing an international dimension to primary or secondary education.
- ✓ Promote AIESEC’s opportunities to engage alumni.