

Student-Led Community Service Learning at AUC



Dr. Maurits de Klepper, Dr. Vessela Chakarova & Marliene Stolker, MA
Amsterdam University College (VU/UvA joint liberal arts & sciences bachelor program)

What is the setting?

AUC strongly believes in leadership and community-based learning. As part of the curriculum, all AUC students must complete at least one internship or community project for course credit. Students participate in local, national or international volunteer projects, organizations, companies or even start their own initiatives. By making community projects and internships (CPI) an integral component of the curriculum, AUC emphasizes the importance of giving back to the community and providing opportunities for students to develop both their professional and interpersonal skills through real-world experience.

How to find/match interesting community partners to AUC students?

There are many organizations that would benefit from student's efforts (and the other way around), but it's hard to match our program and initiatives. In addition, at AUC 80% of students don't speak Dutch, while many organizations require this.

These is what we observe

- Many students find CPIs on their own initiatives and carry over these initiatives for years, so we get stable partnerships.
- Students start their own foundations or organizations
- English speakers can teach/tutor English to less privileged high-school students

Future plans

- Actively stimulate social entrepreneurship through for example the Amsterdam Centre for Entrepreneurship
- Engage with local partners on how initiatives can be organized for English speakers
- Invest in International Community Service Learning (build from the VU)



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