



NATURE POSITIVE
UNIVERSITIES

NATURE POSITIVE STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME.

WELCOME PACK



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030

Welcome to the NPU Student Ambassador Programme!

This toolkit is a document intended to be used by Nature Positive Universities **Student Ambassadors** to understand more about the programme and your role in it. We hope it will provide inspiration for actions to take for nature on your campus and beyond, to accompany our live / recorded workshop sessions.

The NPU Student Ambassador programme runs each academic year with a series of workshops, and associated toolkits and resources aiming to provide information, green skills and support to empower students around the world to become leaders for nature, whatever their background, setting or subject of study.

We are really excited to have you join us, and hope to learn as much from you as you do from us. You are all experts in your locations, your culture, the nature around you and the initiatives on the ground where you are. We'd love to hear your thoughts and perspectives, as well as the actions you decide to take as part of this programme.

The new 2024-5 student cohort represents students from **40 countries** across **172 universities!**

Thank you for starting this journey with us!

Emily, Favour and Hollie

NPU Student Ambassador team

November 2024

Who are the NPU team?



Emily Stott
Coordinator
University of Oxford



Favour Eragbie
Student Ambassador
Coordinator
University of Benin



Hollie Thompson
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Harriet Waters
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Noemie Metais
UNEP Youth and
Education



Henry Grub
Research Associate
Imperial College

Introduction: What is Nature Positive Universities?

Nature Positive Universities is a growing network of people from over 500 higher education institutions across the world, from over 100 countries working together to promote nature on our campuses, in our supply chains and within our cities and communities. We were founded by UNEP and the University of Oxford in partnership with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and launched at Biodiversity COP15 in Montreal in December 2022.

Our programme has two main aspects:

- An institutional **NATURE POSITIVE PLEDGE** - this is a commitment to be made by the senior management of a university committing to measurable biodiversity action by setting baselines, targets and carrying out campus-wide actions addressing the impacts on nature of higher education institutions. To date, approximately 150 institutions have made this pledge.
- Our **STUDENT AMBASSADOR** programme is designed to stand alone and provide you with skills, information and support to take action for nature in your setting. Sometimes students are able to work with staff at their institutions on activities contributing towards their Nature Positive pledge, but whether or not you have these opportunities, we hope to support your activities.

Where do Student Ambassadors fit in?

There are many ways for students to be involved at their universities, and this will vary a lot depending on where you are, what resources are available, what groups already exist, and the position students have at their institutions.

In addition, some universities will have already made the Nature Positive Pledge, and are working with us, others are yet to take this step.

We believe students can be powerful agents for change, acting in existing student groups, as individuals, in collaboration with their staff and interacting with their wider communities, and we'd love to work with you to find the best ways to contribute towards the change we need to see, in your setting.

At NPU we are also part of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), who encourage us to help build a movement and share our actions with the hashtag [#GenerationRestoration](#). We encourage you to adopt this for your future social media posts!



#GenerationRestoration

What is my role as a Student Ambassador?

Being a Student Ambassador means taking **action for nature on your campus** to contribute to its Nature Positive journey and sharing experiences with other students across the world.

Your university doesn't have to have taken the Nature Positive Pledge for you to become an Ambassador; in fact, many of our Ambassadors are currently campaigning for their universities to take the Pledge as part of their role. There are lots of different ways to contribute.

What we offer:

- Experience volunteering with mentors at University of Oxford and experienced youth activists from around the world;
- A chance to make a difference on your campus;
- Inspiration and networking with a global community of likeminded individuals;
- Resources and training from peers to help you organise events and activities;
- A certificate and letter documenting your role with us after completing your workbook;
- Flexibility to work around your time and commitments.

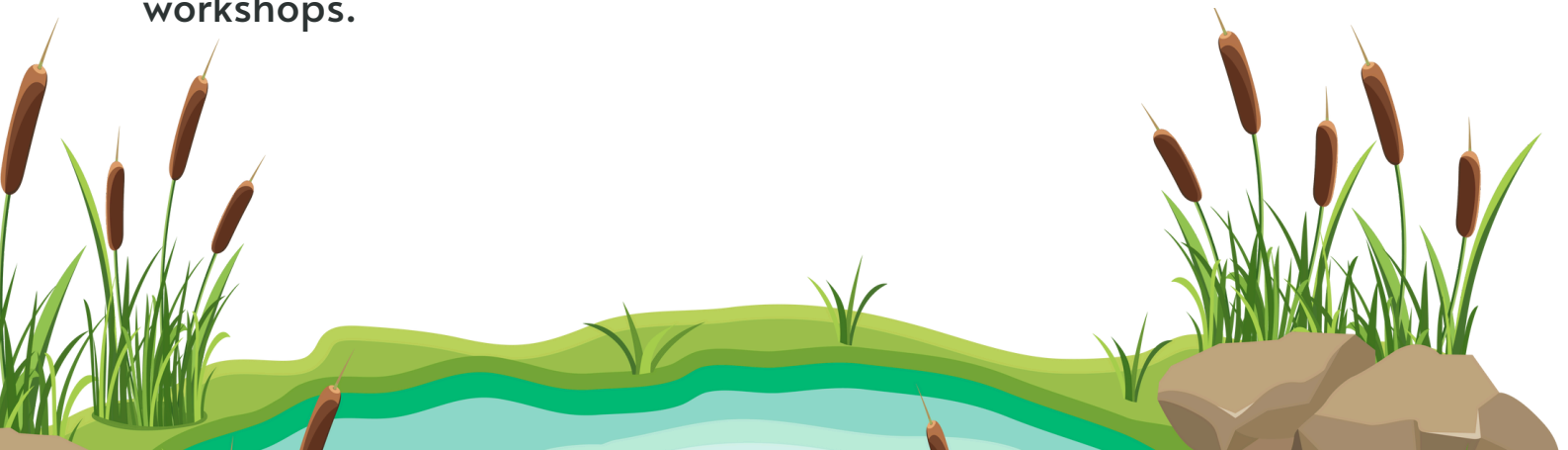


What we ask of you

- Attend all six of the monthly Ambassador sessions to learn about a relevant topic or skill and network with other Student Ambassadors;
- Complete at least one action for each workshop / toolkit throughout the six sessions
- Record your progress in your workbook, and submit this at the end of your time with us to receive certification;
- Stay in touch with us to let us know how things are working for you - we'd love to take your feedback on board to help improve.

Please note:

- **FUNDING:** We cannot currently offer financial support. However in the future, we would like to develop a Small Grants programme to better support students to take action where resources are a barrier.
- **LANGUAGES:** This is currently an English language programme, however we are aware that language is a barrier, and are working to make sure our resources will be available in multiple languages. For now, there is the option for auto-translated captions on our workshops.



Featured Student Ambassadors

We have Student Ambassadors across the world, so wherever you are from - **you are welcome!** Here are some of our past and present Student Ambassadors from around the world:



Favour (Nigeria)

Favour started a nature group to increase student activism on her campus at the University of Benin and has organised activities like community litter-picks and outreach events at local schools.



Muhammed (Pakistan)

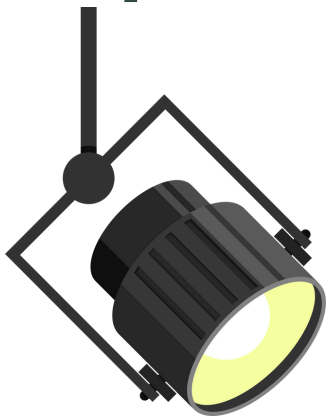
Muhammed is a Forestry student at the University of Haripur where he has engaged in afforestation to increase the diversity of plants on campus, and has campaigned for his university to make a Nature Positive Pledge.



Avani (India)

Avani is a volunteer with Familial Forestry at Government Dungar College. She has helped nurture & distribute 75,000 saplings in her community and assists in combatting desertification through native planting.

What kinds of things do students as part of NPU do?



"Yes, being a student ambassador has really inspired me to pay more attention to the environment. I would also like to take up a research topic on species in water and how human activities affect them. I personally, have been very proud of myself, to take a stand to protect nature. I have been identified to protect finite resources for continuity and future generations. I have been proud to be a student ambassador as it has helped me view my environment differently." - **Ruth Makolo - Student Ambassador (Nigeria)**

SPOTLIGHT: Africa



Raising awareness including film showings on nature and climate issues and clean up activities at University of Benin, Nigeria



Student Ambassador coordinator Favour Eragbie, founder of Friends of Nature Network

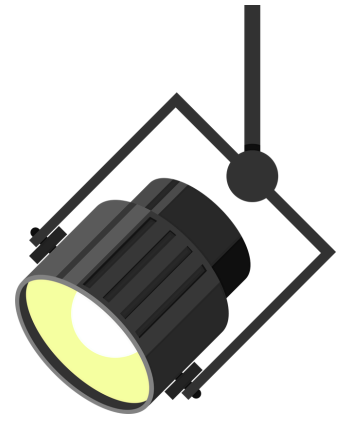


Litter pick to celebrate Day of Zero Waste on degraded land at University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

What kinds of things do students as part of NPU do?

"As a student ambassador and working for the betterment of nature has immensely inspired me to work with organization and departments that support nature conservation. Even I think to start nature based consultancy provided I get a suitable support. Thus, I plan to seek job in nature conservation field. I would like to say that my proudest moment is being a part of NPU and working towards its vision."

Bhakti Sharma Koirala - Student Ambassador (Bhutan)



SPOTLIGHT: Asia



Green Games events raising awareness of climate issues at Institute of Space Technology Islamabad, Pakistan

Student Ambassador Avani Jyani tending to saplings for distribution as part of Familial Forestry at Government Dungar College, Bikaner, India



Taking part in a litter pick at Institute of Architecture and Town Planning, Bundelkhand University, India

Time to get started!

Nature Positive Universities would love to hear how you get on - please don't hesitate to share your journey with us and ask for advice along the way and inbetween workshops. Your peers in the WhatsApp chat are also there to support you so don't be shy to share your thoughts!



You will find all the resources - toolkits, recordings, workbooks, social media frame etc available at:

www.naturepositiveuniversities.net/student-resources



You can contact us through the Nature Positive Universities website www.naturepositiveuniversities.net or via email on naturepositiveuniversities@gmail.com

We also encourage you to share your actions for nature on social media with the hashtag #GenerationRestoration and tag us on the following handles:



@nature-positive-universities



@naturepositiveuniversities



@NaturePosUni



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