

About JUMP

JUMP provides one-to-one befriending for vulnerable young asylum seekers who have come to the UK without parents or a guardian.

We match them up with a trained and committed adult volunteer befriender. They offer a regular, stable and structured friendship plus support in navigating their way through life in the UK.

The young people we support face a huge number of challenges in the UK. Having fled conflict and persecution, they are in a new country with an unfamiliar culture and language, forced to navigate a difficult and confusing asylum system alone. With their befriender however, we create a safe space where they can explore their interests, regain some control over their own lives and benefit from a non-judgemental, non-directive friendship.

JUMP pairs meet at least once a fortnight. What they do depends on both people's interests. Some meet regularly for a coffee and chat, others may help with more practical issues such as registering for with the GP or filling in asylum support forms. Above all, JUMP is about building a sincere and supportive friendship, to the benefit of both the young person and the befriender.

Sign up here: <https://www.hiasjcore.org/become-befriender-jump/>

What do young people get out of JUMP?

- A friend in a strange country;
- Help with paperwork and meetings;
- Help accessing education;
- Reduced feeling of isolation.

What do the befrienders get out of JUMP?

- A chance to help people in real need;
- A chance to 'give back';
- A new friend;
- Develop an interest in asylum issues.

Requirements of volunteers

- Volunteers will be required to:
 - Meet with an unaccompanied asylum seeking or refugee young person fortnightly for at least one year.
 - Establish a warm, supportive friendship with the young person within JUMP befriending boundaries.

- Help to build up the young person's self-esteem and confidence.
- A JUMP befriender will be someone the young person can talk to. They must be prepared to support the young person with a range of possible activities, such as: developing everyday life skills, getting around London/Brighton/Hove, taking part in recreational or educational opportunities, applying for work experience or a job. They should be prepared to offer support with English, and where possible other types of academic work.
- They must make time to travel, if necessary, within London/Brighton/Hove to meet with the young person. While we try to match people who live reasonably close by, this is not always possible, and young people can often have precarious housing situations and move neighbourhoods. It is important to consider the travel time, as well as contact time, potentially involved in befriending.
- A JUMP volunteer should be prepared to enjoy cultural/ sporting activities with the young person, and to take advantage of free entertainment and other opportunities in London/Brighton/Hove.
- They should regularly communicate with the project coordinator after meeting the young person, providing feedback once a month about activities undertaken and to attend supervision face-to-face twice a year.
- They must submit monthly expenses incurred during the activities undertaken with the young person, and immediately alert the JUMP project coordinator or HIAS+JCORE Safeguarding Lead to any safeguarding (child and young person protection) issues.

What difference you will make

The role of the HIAS+JCORE Unaccompanied Minors Project (JUMP) volunteer befriender is to provide informal support and friendship to a refugee or asylum-seeking young person for a year and potentially beyond. The young people JUMP support might benefit from a befriender because they've left their families behind and often feel isolated, bewildered and lonely. Some have no one to talk to. Some want to improve their English. Some would like to get to know London/Brighton/Hove better. The impact made by our befrienders is long-lasting and varies depending on both the befriender and young person's interests.

Skills required

- Able to establish good relationships with young people.
- Able to use a non-judgemental, non-directive approach to working with young people.
- Empathy, sensitivity and patience
- Strong communication and listening skills.
- Reliable in making and keeping commitments, including arrangements to meet up.

- Aware of the needs of young people.
- Sympathy for the difficulties that asylum seeking/refugee children and young people face.
- Willing to enhance own awareness of the issues facing asylum-seeking and refugee children/young people through training.
- Aware of safeguarding and child protection issues, and (i) willing to enhance this through JUMP training, and (ii) willing to follow HIAS+JCORE's safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Willing to ask for help when uncertain when befriending and to discuss the experience of befriending through regular updates and supervision.

What training we will provide for you

After submitting your application, you will be contacted to arrange an informal telephone interview. If all goes well at this stage we would request two references and get you booked onto a day's training. The training will cover the role of the befriender and offer some more information about the experiences of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee young people. Before being paired with a young person we would also request an enhanced DBS check.

What you will get out of volunteering for us

Each volunteer befriender receives ongoing support from the JUMP project lead. If you are successful in becoming a volunteer befriender you will also become a member of the JUMP community. The JUMP community is made up of current volunteer befrienders and young people who meet every 3 months to take part in a wide range of activities. To ensure our volunteer team is as diverse as possible, JUMP covers expenses relating to volunteering.

For more information: <https://hiasjcore.org/what/jump/> or email jump@hiasjcore.org to find out more.