



# GLOBAL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR NURSING: A TRANSFORMATIVE MODEL TO ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



ANNAMMA WILSON, Lecturer in Adult Nursing [a.wilson1@uel.ac.uk](mailto:a.wilson1@uel.ac.uk)

FAIZA ADAM, Global Experiences Manager [f.adam@uel.ac.uk](mailto:f.adam@uel.ac.uk)

# AGENDA



**Redefining Civic Engagement in Nursing**



**Programme Overview**



**Implementation Journey & Key Challenges**



**Regenerate Africa**



**La Montessori Chain of Schools**



**ATOVA International**



**Student testimonials**



**Conclusions**

# Redefining Civic Engagement in Nursing

## 1. Final-Year Nursing Module (NS6101)

- Traditionally includes a 4-week local volunteering experience.
- Requirement: Students undertake local volunteering
- Student feedback: Desire for international volunteering opportunities

## 2. Global Civic Engagement Initiative

- Introduced international volunteering to foster global civic engagement and align with UEL's Vision 2028.

## 3. Collaboration and Planning

- Partnered with UEL Global Experiences team to explore global placements.
- Engaged with three charity partners to design a two-week international volunteering experience aligned with module learning outcomes.



# Redefining Civic Engagement in Nursing

## 4. Enhancing Cultural Competence

- Promotes cultural awareness and global citizenship among nursing students through experiential learning.

## 5. Developing Critical Skills

- Builds critical thinking, adaptability, and understanding of global health challenges via real-world experiences.

## 6. Sustainable Nursing Education Model

- Embeds learning outcomes into volunteering to create a scalable framework for education and global civic engagement.

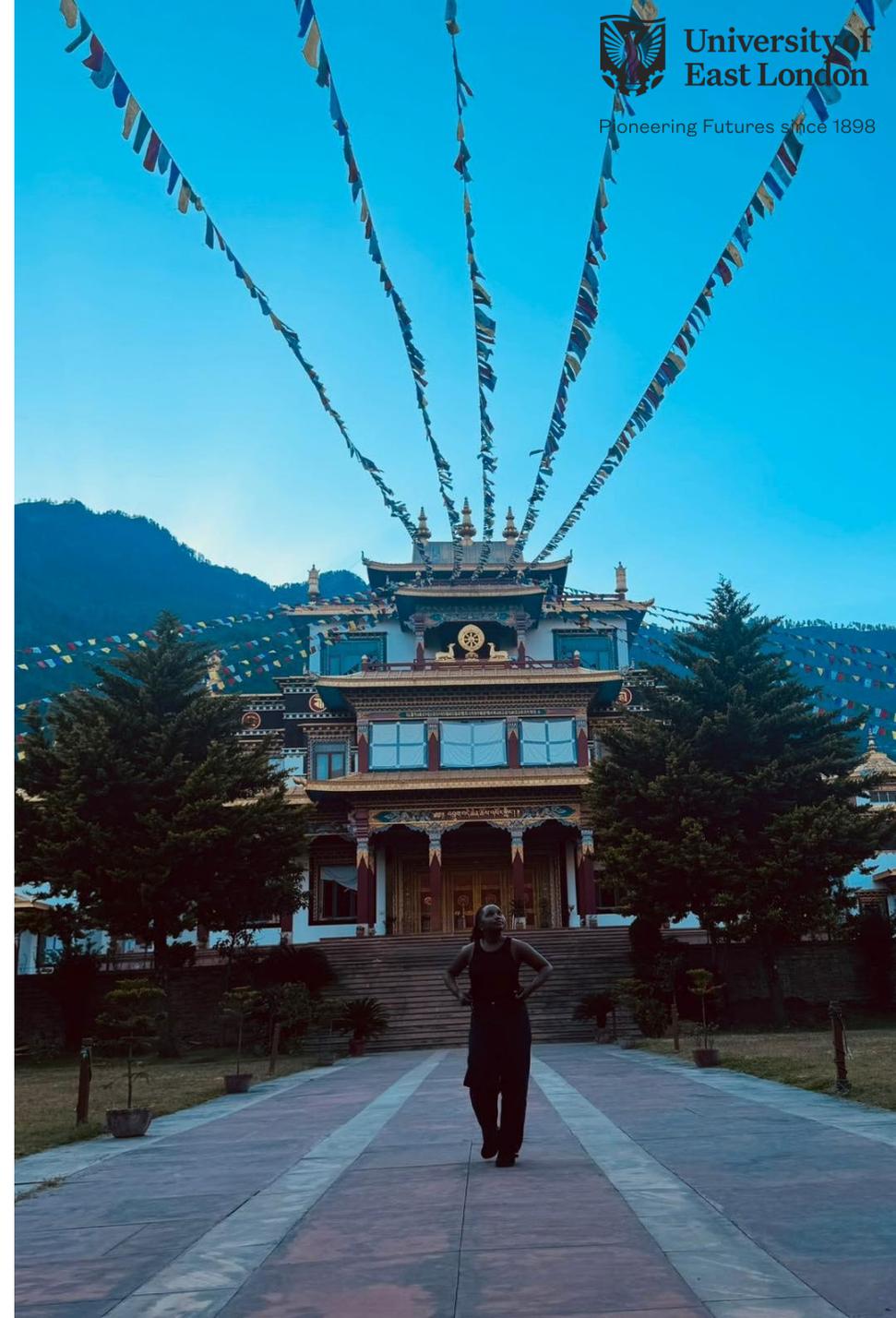


# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

A two-week immersive experience enabling Nursing students to actively engage with the local communities and create a lasting, positive impact.

## Proposed activities:

- Take part in volunteering opportunities in non-clinical settings, supporting local initiatives such as education, sustainability, and community engagement.
- Work on practical, project-based tasks addressing real-world challenges



# IMPLEMENTATION JOURNEY



Leveraged existing partnerships to create meaningful opportunities aligned with course requirements.



Engaged with Nursing students to understand their perspectives and challenges around international travel.



Worked closely with academic colleagues to integrate Global Experiences' processes in the Civic Engagement module.



Conducted outreach activities and information sessions to introduce program opportunities.



Provided ongoing guidance and support before, during and after the program.



Collected feedback from students and partners to refine and enhance future opportunities.

# KEY CHALLENGES



Tight Nursing academic calendar with a 4 weeks window for program delivery and assignments completion



L5 to L6 confirmed progression to allow student participation



Funding limitations

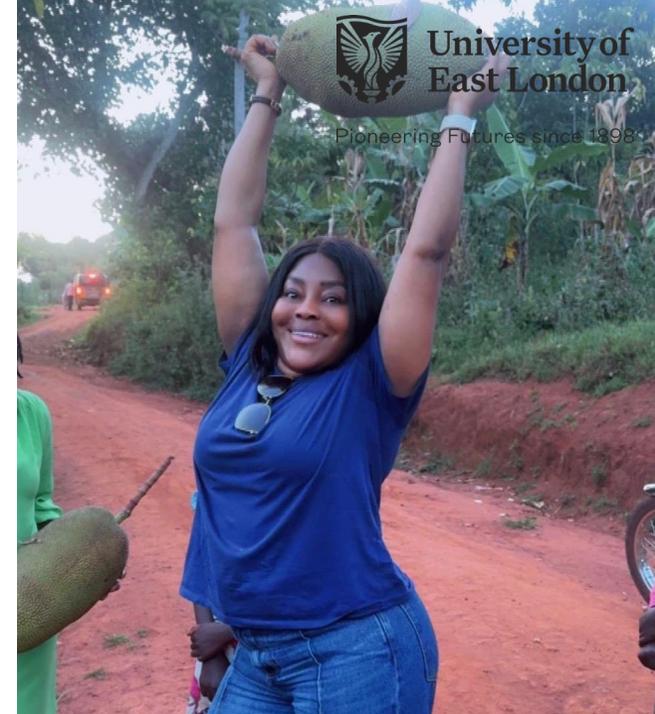


# REGENERATE AFRICA

Regenerate Africa is a non-profit organisation focused on promoting sustainable development and community resilience through integrated approaches to health, environment, and social wellbeing. The organisation is based in Kampala, Uganda.

## Key themes:

- Regenerative Food, Agriculture, and Land Management
- Climate and Green Energy Solutions
- Gender, Health, and Environment
- Forests and Water Resources
- Business, Nature, and Sustainability



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN BUIKWE DISTRICT



- Distributed seeds to local farmers to support sustainable livelihoods and climate-resilient communities.
- Engaged with community health teams to understand local healthcare practices.
- Participated in a medical outreach program in Zzitwe.
- Interacted with the District Health Office to learn about healthcare delivery at the community level.
- Assisted with community health awareness sessions, providing guidance on hygiene and preventive care.



# LA MONTESSORI CHAIN OF SCHOOLS

La Montessori Chain of Schools (LMS), was established in 1995 and now operates across more than six campuses in Himachal Pradesh (India), providing education to children aged 3–18. The school has a growing network of over 5,000 alumni and welcomes volunteers from around the world to take part in volunteering programmes.



## LMS EXPERIENCE

- Participated in community engagement projects, including local street cleaning initiatives.
- Assisted teachers in delivering and coordinating interactive lessons.
- Facilitated creative and recreational activities, including arts, crafts, and painting, fostering student engagement.
- Celebrated Indian culture through interactive group activities such as art, music, and traditional games.



# ATOVA INTERNATIONAL

**ATOVA International** is a non-profit organisation based in Indonesia, dedicated to transforming lives through education, conservation, health and leadership.

The organisation provides free, high-quality English education to young people in rural communities by bringing together experienced local educators and international volunteers.

Alongside education, ATOVA addresses pressing environmental challenges such as deforestation, climate change, and habitat loss, supporting efforts to protect Indonesia's biodiversity and strengthen community resilience.



# TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

## Impact on Students

Increased confidence

Intercultural competence

Enhanced employability

Development of transferable skills

## Strategic Impact

Positions UEL as a “Glocal Anchor”

Supports Vision 2028 priorities:

Social Justice

Inclusivity

Global Engagement



# Student Testimonial: Regenerate Africa

Volunteering in a resource-limited environment helped me understand how poverty, culture, and nutrition are interconnected. The experience taught me **adaptability**, **empathy**, and **creativity**, strengthening my commitment to promoting equitable and holistic care within global health.

- *Godfred* -



# Student Testimonial: La Montessori School

Working in a culturally diverse environment has enhanced my **communication** and **adaptability** skills.

I have learned to effectively communicate with children and their caregivers despite language barriers. On my personal level, this mobility has fostered greater **resilience**, **cultural sensitivity**, and **self-confidence**.

- Sandra -



# Student Testimonial: ATOVA

My overseas volunteering experience has had an **intense impact** on me as a student nurse. It has shaped the way I view and compare life, our lifestyles, and the healthcare system we are fortunate to have. I learned a great deal about myself, especially how well I can adapt to **new environments** and handle **unfamiliar situations** positively.

- *Emerald* -



# What does the future hold for this initiative?



I am currently pursuing a PhD that explores the impact of national versus international volunteering on nursing students.



My research focuses on the topic: 'Local and International Volunteering in Nursing Education: A Qualitative Comparative Study on Civic Engagement and Understanding Health Inequalities'.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

**Any Questions?**