

Academic Relations Student Volunteer

Location	Remote
Duration	Minimum 2 months commitment
Type	Volunteer Position (Unpaid)
Commitment	Approx 8 hours month (flexible hours)

About Acume

Acume is an ambitious tech startup that exists to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and revolutionise access to academic knowledge. This is because better access to research will inform NGOs and governmental organisations on how to improve and innovate – and ultimately advance the UN’s SDGs.

But to reach its potential, research must first become more accessible. And for us, ‘accessible’ is more than open-access.

Accessible research means it’s fast to find, quick to read, simple to understand, and easy to apply into practice. It means it requires little effort to digest and use the resource.

But for research to become accessible, its format needs to first be reimaged. And this is what we are trying to do.

We are working with academics from across the world (including LMIC countries) to transform scholar’s research into concise, practical and accessible summaries that makes the findings available to everyone.

About Student Volunteer

Every two months, we recruit five student volunteers to join a growing community of changemakers, who help to make research more accessible.

In the first two months, you will run your own project. You will research a social challenge in a specific region, manage outreach, conduct interviews, edit the transcript and upload the final piece on behalf of the academic. You will be given the support and resources to do this successfully.

You are responsible for supporting academics throughout the process - from invite, to organising meeting, to interview, to the write up. Everything from research to getting the research shared on the platform.

You will be expected to commit two hours every week for the two months, and join four team meetings. Team meetings take place every two weeks. We also have a slack community where you can ask questions at any time.

After two months, if you would like to stay on, you can either choose to run a second outreach project - or conduct ad hoc interviews with the academics who sign up and interest you.

We hope this is an exciting opportunity for those interested in a career in research, academia or international development. And those wishing to strengthen their networks, communication, interview and research skills.

Who we are looking for

We are looking for smart students who care about our mission. We believe academic research could help change the world - but only if it is accessible, available to all - and useable.

We also think that academic research should be representative of the diversity in our world. Too often, peer-reviewed journals favour some nationalities over others. But we think that greater inclusion will help to increase innovation and inform wiser decisions in the field.

We want you to really care about the academics that you work with and take care to listen to what they say. It is very important that we represent findings and ideas accurately, and not change their meaning.

In a nutshell, we are akin to journalists, reporting on the latest research and how it is interpreted by the academic. We are actively curious, neutral observers.

Our impact summary format is quite novel to many academics, which means we need you to be able to clearly explain to them what we need and have the confidence to ask an academic to elaborate or provide a more concrete example if they are vague.

For example, while we have a list of questions that need to be asked during any interview, we want you to listen to their answers and ask follow up questions: “what does that really mean”, “what data did you collect to support that”, and “how do you

define that concept” in the light of any vagueness. Asking additional probing questions helps to make more useful and higher-quality summaries.

We also want someone who can simplify and is a good editor. Who knows what is and what is not important. Who knows how to cut the noise and fluff without changing the meaning.

It’s preferred if you are well-versed in social science and humanities research, as this is our current focus. However, you are still free to apply even if from another discipline.

Finally, we want someone with strong people skills. In an interview, you need to be able to lead the meeting and connect with the academic. You need to allow space for silence but also ask the right questions.

Requirements

- Third-year Bachelors or Masters students (preferably social science or humanities)
- Smart, curious mindset
- Lots of initiative!
- Genuine belief in our mission
- Strong people and interviewing skills
- Strong editing skills
- Strong project management and organisation skills

How to apply

To apply, please visit www.acume.org/student and use the form to submit your application.

We will recruit new students every two months - please check our website for the next date.