

Volunteer Opportunity with NorQuest International “SPEAKING CLUB”

Volunteers are vital to NorQuest community. Your commitment and generosity help international students gain confidence and succeed in the new linguistic, academic and cultural environment.

“Speaking Club” is a new exciting and meaningful opportunity to volunteer at NorQuest College. Speaking Club provides additional language practice and culture exchange opportunities for international students at NorQuest College.

For more information about this volunteer opportunity, please visit the website or send an email to olga.leshcheva@norquest.ca

How it Works

Our volunteers work in small groups (virtually), with students who want to improve their English, learn about Canadian culture, gain confidence, or other essential skills.

Volunteers currently meet with students virtually.

ARE YOU.....?

- Eager to share your expertise, your knowledge of Canadian culture and your smile?
- Non-judgmental and friendly, patient, responsible and reliable?
- Proficient in speaking, reading, and writing English?
- Eager to help someone improve their speaking skills and confidence?

If this is you – get in touch with us and apply [HERE!](#)

OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Responsibilities

- Read through the guide and helpful resources; attend an onboarding meeting before the beginning of the term; if any questions, contact olga.leshcheva@norquest.ca
- Be ready to participate in and engage students in sessions on intercultural topics
- Create a relaxing favorable atmosphere for students
- Provide encouragement and support

Time Commitment and Location:

- Commit to as many sessions as you can participate in (from 1 to 16)
- This volunteer role will occur every Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm
- At this point, volunteers and students meet online on BB Ultra

BENEFITS

- Give back to your community: help participants succeed and have a sense of confidence and belonging
- boost your career options (resume booster)
- professional and personal growth*
- connect with others, meet new people
- receive a gift certificate (value dependent on the number of volunteer hours)
- boost your chances of getting a scholarship/award

*Confirmation of volunteer hours available upon request

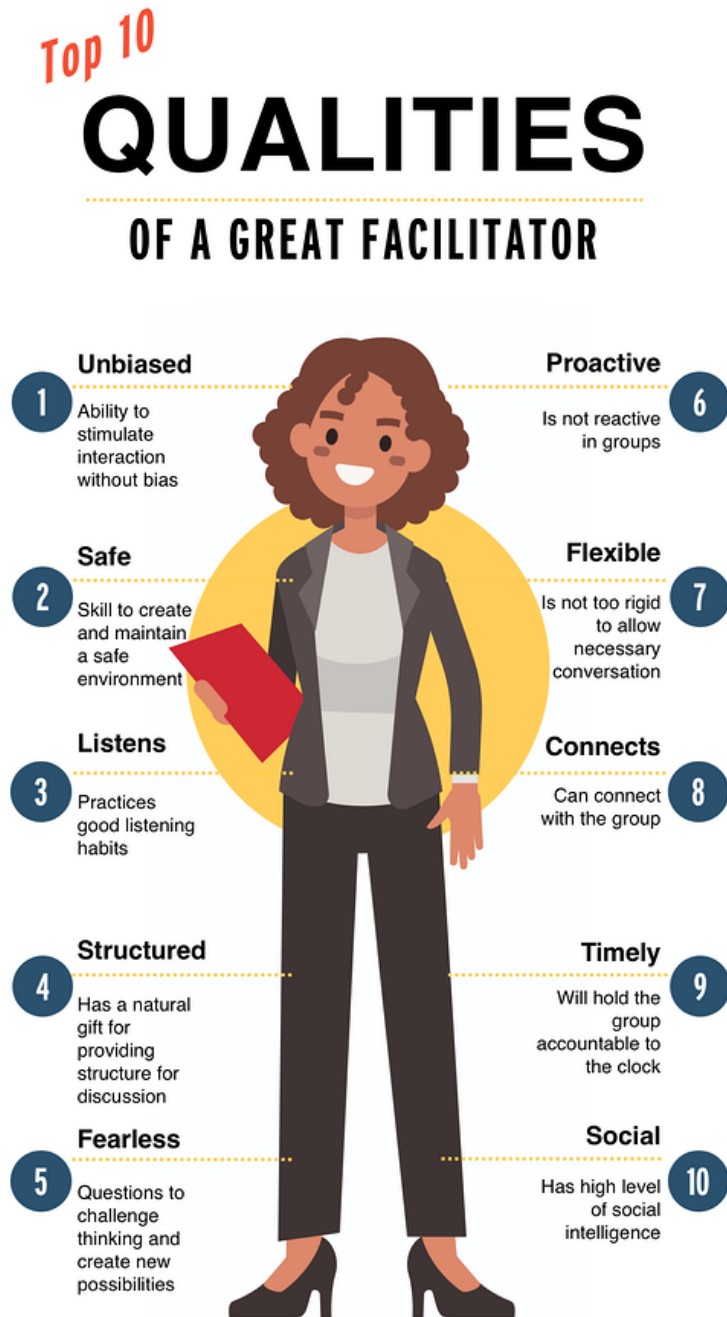
Guide to VOLUNTEER DUTIES:

- Speaking runs every Friday as a virtual opportunity. The main goal is to have international students connect with others, practice their English, learn other perspectives and gain confidence speaking and sharing their opinion. The format is social and informal.
- Students will be put in breakout rooms. There is a topic for discussion, although it's generally broad.
- Your role is to be there and offer a different perspective as well as encourage students to share theirs.
- Introduce yourself and what your area of study is/was, as well as provide a brief explanation that you are a volunteer who supports student well-being and you're there to connect and get to know them.
- You can facilitate the conversation, especially if people seem shy; however, the goal is to have the students do most of the talking.
- If someone is dominating the conversation, you may want to politely cut in and ask if anyone else has anything to share. Some students will appreciate some reassurance if they are struggling with their English.
- If there are any concerns about a student's mental health, you can reach out to Olya (olga.leshcheva@norquest.ca). She will flag it with the Centre for Growth and Harmony.

How to be a better facilitator:

Top 10 Characteristics of an Excellent Group Facilitator:

<https://facilitationfirst.com/top-10-characteristics-of-an-excellent-group-facilitator/>



NEXT STEPS

1. Sign-up for as many opportunities as you can commit to by filling out our [online form](#).
2. Read through the guide and helpful links
3. Receive an email from Olga Leshcheva with the date and time of a short virtual orientation
4. Have questions? Contact olga.leshcheva@norquest.ca
5. Join the session on Thursday at 3:00:
<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/54a4db5f5dd045e2be93cf9a6eecb72a>
6. Fill out the post-volunteering form that is emailed to you.