

Mr Shintaro Kawahara studied on the Undergraduate Course for International Students, as an exchange student from Oita University in Japan in 2002-2003 and undertook the “Volunteer Challenge”.

The reason why I joined voluntary work is that I was doing voluntary work as a club activity (Picking up rubbish in school) before going to the UK and I wanted do something like that in Bath as well so I made a contact with a volunteer organization.

I joined the work twice and these were very wonderful times. The first time, I joined seed gathering. I picked up berries and fruits and put them into water – It is to make them softer and mushed up! After that I picked up the seeds of the berries and fruits and put them in to soil. I worked in rainy weather but I really enjoyed it and touched the warmth of nature.

The second time I helped the member of Bath City Farm during the Flower Festival which was held at Victoria Park. I took care of ponies and handed pamphlets about Bath City Farm. It was nice to feel people's happy atmosphere.

I think there are many students who are interested in volunteering. The thing is that they just don't know about organizations. They need to be informed about them. By the way, international students are looking for opportunities to join local activities, and I think volunteering is one of the ways to communicate with native people. I hope my experience will help you.

All the best,
Shintaro Kawahara.

