

# Case Study

Keele Students' Union

## What was your interfaith project?

- To develop a multi-faith blog and online forum for interfaith engagement.
- To increase involvement in the recently formed multi-faith forum.
- To host a multi-faith fair based on 'culture, faith & food'.

## How did you ensure students were involved in the development of your project?

The idea grew out of the multi faith forum (where all student faith societies are represented) and had small teams of students responsible for developing the blog and arranging the faith fair.

## What impact did this project have on students you work with and within your students' union or college?

- How did it deliver one of the following outcomes:
  - Encourage engagement between faith societies
  - Increase understanding amongst students about different religions and beliefs
  - Increase dialogue and collaborative action
- Were there any other outcomes from the project?

This project has encouraged engagement between different societies by giving them a number of shared objectives. It's also provoked positive discussion around faith in the community and challenges around practicing and maintaining faith whilst at University. Although the blog hasn't yet had many posts, there has been a lot of interest and now the guidelines have been created we are hoping to see a number of posts in the coming weeks.

## What lessons did you learn in delivering the project that might be useful to other students' unions?

Developing relationships between members of societies prior to the project and the event certainly helped to make it successful. A number of the societies had good relations with either members of the Students' Union or the chaplaincy team but did not have those relationships with each other prior to the event. The Activities Conference that we held in September, just before the start of the year also helped. At the Conference we ran a session on working collaboratively with other societies and some of the societies involved had built up relationships from that event that helped in the planning process.

## Do you have any feedback from participants at your event?

'It was Good to have the different faith coming together and see how the different groups viewed and spoke about how or even if they should share their faith with others' Max (student)

'It was good to be sharing together in food because after all we all like to eat!' – Claire (student)

'I was struck by the atmosphere at the event, there was a real sense of growing understanding and acceptance both between faith communities and individuals, I have confidence the blog, as it develops, will be a vital tool for greater understanding' James (chaplain)

'The fair was a fantastic event giving an Insight into the workings of some of the religious groups at Keele. The segment on how faith fits into my life at university especially pulled me in, as I often have difficulties integrating my faith in on a day to day basis and it was refreshing to hear that it is not always easy. There was some fantastic discussion, poetry and food which made the event and it's atmosphere warm and inviting. The Multi faith blog was also launched, which I am looking forward to reading and following in the next couple of months.' Ayisah (student)

**Photo/Video evidence of your event:**

Link to the blog - <http://keelemultifaithblog.blogspot.co.uk/?m=1>

