

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Drug and Alcohol Education Mentor
Country	Papua New Guinea
Location of Partner Organisation	Madang
Partner Organisation	Divine Word University (DWU)
Duration	6 months, part-time (E-volunteer)
Sustainable Development Goals	

41902

1. Partner Organisation Overview

Alcohol and drug abuse can significantly impact a student's academic and personal life. Therefore, it is crucial to provide effective education and support services to prevent substance abuse and address the issues promptly if they occur. At DWU, we are deeply committed to promoting sound moral values and attitudes among our students and providing effective alcohol and drug education that equips them with the knowledge and skills required to make healthier decisions about alcohol and other drugs. A volunteer can assist DWU to strengthen its alcohol and drug prevention education programmes and recovery support services. By promoting sound moral values and attitudes, providing educational resources, and collaborating with other stakeholders, DWU aims to create a culture of care and well-being that fosters a better teaching and learning environment, ultimately leading to improved learning outcomes.

Divine Word University (DWU) is a highly well-respected tertiary institution in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region, renowned for its dedication to value-based teaching and learning, academic excellence, research, social responsibility, diversity, and community engagement. DWU operates multiple campuses and provides undergraduate and graduate programs across a diverse range of disciplines, including education, business, medicine and health sciences, social sciences, and tourism and hospitality.

The university is deeply committed to providing a superior education that fosters intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth, as it equips students with the skills to become responsible leaders and citizens in their communities. DWU has a diverse student body, with students from Papua New Guinea, other Pacific Island countries, and around the world. The university offers a range of services and support to help students succeed, including academic advising, counselling, and career services. DWU is known for its strong commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and the holistic development of its students, and remains a highly respected institution in Papua New Guinea and the wider Pacific region.

2. Assignment Overview

An experienced and skilled VSA volunteer (Drug and Alcohol Education Mentor) can contribute to enhancing the effectiveness and efficacy of DWU's alcohol and drug education and recovery support for students. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the Counselling Services team, Student Union, and other campus departments to identify gaps in capacity and capability and develop and implement drug and alcohol prevention programs. The Mentor will help provide counselling to students struggling with substance abuse and offer support to those in recovery.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs



Goal

DWU's alcohol and drug prevention education programme and recovery support are more effective, empowering students with the protective knowledge and skills required to prevent alcohol and drug abuse as well as make healthier life choices, contributing to a better teaching and learning environment and improved learning outcomes.

Outcome 1

DWU's capacity and capability for developing and delivering effective alcohol and drug education and recovery support programmes are strengthened by taking a holistic and evidence-based approach. This includes a range of prevention measures, ensuring that the programmes are more effective in addressing the complex social, economic, and health-related issues that affect students.

- Collaborate closely with the Counselling Services team, Student Representative Council, and other key stakeholders to identify gaps in capacity and capabilities related to drug and alcohol prevention programmes, and contribute to strengthening these programmes at DWU.
- Provide expertise, assistance and guidance in improving alcohol and drug prevention education resources.
- Assist with conducting educational sessions, workshops, and seminars on substance abuse and prevention strategies to help educate and empower students to make informed decisions.
- Assist Counselling and Support Services team to improve support to students in recovery, including connecting them with appropriate resources and facilitating peer support groups.

Outcome 2

DWU's Counselling Services team and other relevant stakeholders are provided with training, mentorship, and support to improve their capabilities and confidence in developing and delivering effective alcohol and drug prevention education programmes and recovery support services.

- Provide training, mentorship, and support to help staff close these gaps and enhance their performance, ensuring that DWU's alcohol and drug education and recovery support services are effective.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The capacity strengthening will take place through a variety of activities, including training, mentoring, coaching, collaboration, and knowledge sharing.

This is an e-volunteer (e-vol) position. The volunteer will primarily communicate and work closely with the Vice President of Student Affairs (VPSA) and her Executive Officer.

The volunteer and Divine Word University will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA Programme Manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically reviews and reflects on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.



5. Selection Criteria/Position Requirements

Person Specifications (Professional)

Essential

- A tertiary qualification in counselling, social work, or a related field.
- Proven experience in alcohol and drug education, prevention, and counselling.
- Experience in substance abuse prevention, education, and counselling.
- Knowledge of current best practices in substance abuse prevention and intervention
- Strong communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Knowledge of legal and ethical issues related to substance abuse prevention and intervention.

Desirable

- Comfortable working with digital tools and technologies and have an aptitude for quickly learning new software and systems.
- Experience working in a university or college setting is preferred.

Person Specifications (Personal)

Essential

- A positive can-do attitude.
- Supportive and understanding.
- Excellent relationship management skills (ability to relate well to people from different backgrounds and cultures).
- Ability to work collegially and collaboratively.
- Patient and flexible.

Desirable

- Experience working in the Pacific Islands.

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross-cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about Papua New Guinea, see <https://vsa.org.nz/our-work/countryregion/papua-new-guinea/>

Additional Information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status and currently living in NZ.



Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory VSA clearances, and partner organisation acceptance.

Children's Act

VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine the applicant's suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

E-Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements

Volunteers will receive a monthly honorarium of NZ\$90 for a part-time assignment. This amount is expected to reimburse the volunteer for costs associated with undertaking the assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.

