Give it a Go 2023-2024

Give it a Go (GIAG) is a programme of activities which primarily runs from September to May. We have a range of weekly sporting activities from football to archery, all free and with no commitment to come back regularly or join the club, though of course, everyone is welcome to do both. We are looking at a new way to expand the programme and allow for more activities, both sport and hobby related. Any student group is invited to run a GIAG session, which will introduce students to their group/activity. The aim of the Give it a Go programme is to provide students with the opportunity to try something new and engage with an activity they may not typically participate in. A key aim for the programme is "try something for the first time or get back into an old hobby, meet new people, and gain experiences".

Funding

Clubs and societies that hold a GIAG will be eligible for £50 funding providing they agree to run 3 events throughout the year. Additionally, if your GIAG is a joint event with another society, you will be eligible for an extra £20, for a total of £70!

Remember, you must follow all the steps under 'How to organise a Give it a Go' in order to be eligible for funding!

Collaborations

Collaborating on a GIAG with another society is a great way to get to know other groups, increase your student outreach, and put on an even bigger and better event. And actively collaborating on events means more funding!

If you'd like to run a GIAG with another group, but you're not sure where to start, let us know that you'd like to run a joint event when you complete the GIAG form, and we'll find a match for you! You never know what societies have similar ideas/aims as you so please put as much detail in your form as possible so we can find you the best match.

Deadline

We ask that we receive all forms for GIAGs to be held in this academic year no later than February 11th, 2024, at 11.59pm. Ideally, the sooner the form is submitted, the sooner the events can be hosted and the more time you have to plan for future events. We have found the best times to host open society events are September-October and January-February, but this is a guide based on new student intake, your events can be held at any time.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Please try and keep your activity as accessible as possible for students. It is important for us a students' union to ensure our activities and events are inclusive and this will help promote your society to a wide range of students.

Below is a list of measures you can use to make your event or activity more accessible and inclusive. Try to meet at least three to improve the accessibility of your event. This is a starting point and is in no way an exhaustive list or the only ways you can be accessible and inclusive, and we encourage you to adapt this for your specific society.

Accessibility Measures

- Introduce the committee with names, committee positions and pronouns and encourage attendees to do the same.
- Have you included the option on your event for students to email the society if someone has accessibility needs or questions prior to the event?
- Is it clear from your event description what you will be doing, outlining any physical requirements such as strenuous tasks (if applicable)?
- Is your GIAG accessible for those requiring wheelchair access? If not, is there a way to adjust your event to make it more accessible for them?
- Do you have a quiet space available for any attendees who may become overwhelmed during your GIAG but that they can still feel included in the event if they want to continue?
- Have you provided options for your GIAG activities to allow attendees to choose what is best for them?
- Are you planning on playing music at your event? Will you make sure that the music playing is appropriate for your audience and played at an appropriate level?
- Is there a way to host your event online to include remote students or those who aren't comfortable with crowds?
- GIAG aims to be beginner friendly. Will you offer both verbal explanations and visual demonstrations?
- Will you split into smaller groups to make sure everyone feels listened to and not overwhelmed or isolated in the group?
- Will you respect boundaries? Instead of giving instructions like "come over here," use suggestions such as "we could go over to the other group or would you prefer…" and always provide options
- Have you considered if your GIAG may be triggering in any way? If so, please ensure you have a trigger warning on your event page and also mention this during your introduction to the event. You can research trigger warnings here!
- Have you offered a GIAG at a time that also suits commuting students or mature students who may also work? If not, have you thought about running another session that will be inclusive to those who may have other priorities and time constraints.

A useful tool to make sure your GIAG are as accessible as they can be is using the STEP model (example here given by MIND). It's a great thought-provoking tool to use to ensure your attendees feel included, no matter their abilities or disabilities. Some initial ideas from the STEP model are:

1. **Space –** Increase/decrease space dependent on ability levels and group size.
2. **Task** – do we need to make it easier or harder? How is the task going to be explained or demonstrated to beginners?
3. **Equipment** – modify equipment- e.g., smaller/softer balls, larger/small knitting needles.
4. **People** – Increase/Decrease the group size.

This is just the beginning of the possible ways you can adapt your sessions to make sure they're inclusive and accessible. Remember that there are a lot of ways that an event may not be accessible to a wide range of people, for example, international or mature students, those who have an invisible disability, those who are partially sighted or deaf and those who are wheelchair users. Accessibility requirements can look different for everyone, and it is important that all our Clubs and Socs are trying to be as accessible as possible.

Costs

GIAGs are typically free, and we request that these events follow suit. We hope that the funding providing will be enough to support the club or society with their event but in the event the costs outweigh the income, please ensure you get in touch with the GIAG Coordinator before any monies are spent.

Development

GIAG's are a great way of reaching out to a wide range of students who may have never thought about joining your society. They're a fantastic tool to introduce students to your society and hopefully they enjoy the session and come back to more, or even join your society.

Here are some ways to make sure you GIAGs are as successful as they could be:

Attendance

Make sure to **collect the number of attendees including their student ID numbers** to qualify you for the GIAG funding. Student ID numbers can be found on the back of student ID cards and should start "@00". A QR Code will be provided for you to add to any posters and/or to have around the room for students to register their attendance. This must be a priority for the group and everyone, including existing members and committee members, should register their attendance. If you would like a specific attendance poster created, this can be arranged, just let the GIAG Know.

Advertising

Advertise in any way you can, online, posters, word of mouth, website events, anything! Really utilise your group's social media pages, make sure you've kept the student opps team updated with your events so we can make sure your event is shared on our socials as well as your own. Bear in mind those students who may not have social media, how will you try and reach them?

Make sure your social media pages and your SU page is up to date with details of your society details and GIAG event. A way to plug memberships is to have a **QR code/website link** for your SU membership page stuck up wherever you have your GIAG. This allows those who attend and decide they want to become a member to buy a membership easily and instantly.

Area

If you know your event will only be able to cater to a limited amount of people, we suggest creating an event with free tickets that is limited to your venue/space capacity. You can always run the same GIAG if the event is popular, and this can be a great opportunity to provide a smaller, quieter second GIAG that may attract those who aren't a fan of big crowds!

Approval

Please ensure you have reached out to the GIAG Coordinator, and all activities and locations are confirmed before you begin advertising.

How to organise your Give it a Go

Please fill in this form and wait for the Give it a Go Coordinator to be in touch. If you have not heard from them in a week, please email ussu-teamsalford@salford.ac.uk to follow up and ensure they have seen your request. Please note during busy periods such as welcome, Christmas and elections, response times may vary.

Any questions or for more information, please contact the Give it a Go Coordinator, Samantha (Sam) Fogg at ussu-teamsalford@salford.ac.uk or s.fogg@salford.ac.uk.