

Khadija Mahmoud, 1st Year Medicine

The Charity:

Street Doctors change the lives of high-risk young people by giving them the skills they need to deliver life-saving first aid. They use first aid as a tool to educate and empower young people, giving them confidence and a sense of responsibility for their actions, helping to change their attitude towards violence.

The Project:

To set up a West London branch, recruiting fellow Imperial medical students to deliver first aid sessions across the region. The first step in setting up a branch of StreetDoctors was to recruit Champions from the region's medical students who would then receive training on a 'Champion's Day'. Champions typically are involved in organising publicity events; Fresher fair, information evenings alongside hosting auditions for volunteer recruitment. Essentially, they set up the volunteer team.

Over the few weeks I spent time publicising recruitment for champions who would ensure volunteer recruitment once the team had been established locally. Once publicised, my role involved making decisions based on application responses, followed by organising a Champions Day for the West London Champions to learn more about the charity and begin working on arranging for volunteer recruitment at Imperial, discussions which I lead.

The four weeks at StreetDoctors were irreplaceable and to my surprise, I not only enhanced my existing skill-set but built on it too. Surprisingly networking is one invaluable skill I learnt to grasp from the BCBN gala dinner with StreetDoctors. At first shy and inexperienced, I came to gain confidence in my knowledge of the charity and the invaluable work it had contributed over the last ten years.

Supporting the charity in setting up another branch has been a true honour for me to contribute to their invaluable work in teaching first aid to youth at risk of violence, and in doing so, building their confidence and changing their attitude. My contributions will mean that the youth at West London will be given a chance to save a life, perhaps even their own in changing their perspective of violence.



Highlights:

- I received an overwhelming number of responses expressing interest in becoming a champion with StreetDoctors. I was excited to see the amount of interest expressed as it was reflective of people's interests in the work that we do and thus joining it.
- Creating a 50-page document researching the attendees, many of which were high-profile, from Jeremy Corbyn and several MPs to renowned business leaders. It was exciting to help StreetDoctors prepare for a high-profile event, one which raises hundreds of thousands to support charities like ours.
- Helping prepare for a gala dinner run by BCBN: a business networking event sponsoring three charities every year, with this year being its sixth year running, the issue of youth violence was chosen and StreetDoctors was to be supported.

