La Fourmilière is a French organization made up of volunteers who wish to give back to the community. The organization is an inspiring venture that aims to make volunteer work “fun, accessible and spontaneous.”

Requirements

“Since 2016, we have been offering one-off and long-term volunteer work opportunities for and to benefit vulnerable populations (seniors, newly arrived asylum seekers, homeless people, etc). Our French course was a resounding success for the newly arrived asylum seekers we work with; good command of the French language is a major integration boost. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, had to stop on-site lessons and set up digital tools to offset the growing demand for language courses. We had to adapt as best we could: how could we make a difference without putting lives in danger and leaving our homes?” explains Clément Debosque, co-founder of La Fourmilière.

The Gymglish approach

Since July 2020, as part of the Social Impact program, Gymglish has been offering online English courses (Gymglish) and French courses (Frantastique) to La Fourmilière's beneficiaries.

Benefits

“We wanted our beneficiaries to have daily contact with the French language (Frantastique) all whilst providing them with an innovative, flexible and mobile learning method. Sadly, our volunteer teachers have very little time to spend with our learners, and we want them to be able to progress in language learning during these difficult times. We are very happy with this method: as a matter of fact, many of them have shown a strong participation rate.

The main benefit of Gymglish lessons is that they are easy to complete. Learners don’t need login details, passwords, or even a computer. La Fourmilière’s job is to provide them with licenses (subscriptions to the course). Learners begin their training and receive a personalized lesson via email for a minimum of six months. To sum it up, the lessons are easy to set up and end up straight in the learner’s inbox!” concludes Clément Debooske.