Project Title and Description
The New Chapter Project

This project is an initiative to provide free reading materials to the community, support and detention centres of the city of London using used and second-hand books. We have two aims. First, we wish to promote reading by introducing books to a variety of environments. Secondly, we want prevent material waste. Whenever we throw away a book, we are creating waste and throwing away all the resources that have gone into its production: hours of labour, trees, water, electricity, etc. Therefore, it made sense to bring these two things together and provide an ecological solution to a social problem.

SOAS – What are you studying/did you study, involvement in societies/projects etc.?
I am studying for a BA in Arabic and Politics. I was president of the Italian Society for two years and am now president of the Renaissance group and also treasurer for the Backgammon society.

Date of graduation
2013

Why did you decide to apply for the UnLtd Funding?
I decided to apply for the funding because it finally made my project seem like more than just an idea. Too often we are restricted by the cost of organising even small projects, but UnLtd proved to have an answer for my problems!

How did SOAS help?
The SOAS Hub staff was essential to the application process. Apart from encouragement their support was essential to strengthening the project and making it a reality. Without them I would have never been able to apply, nor would I have had a concrete plan for what I wanted to do.

What do you hope to achieve through your project?
I just want people to realise what a book can really do. I think that if more and more people read for pleasure on a regular basis, the world would be a much better place. Reading is the kind of thing that many people don’t miss because they do not live in an environment where reading is valued.

Future plans?
Lots of hopes but no plans yet!

Any tips for students who want to start something?
Just do it. I was scared at first, but it’s important for you to have the courage to go for it and jump in with both feet. Once you get the ball rolling, you’ll get carried away!