



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Conservation HQ: Conservation Evidence Placement

Why do we need you?

At WWT, we create and conserve wetlands and save species. As one of the UK's leading wetland conservation organisations we have a long history of managing wetland sites and species as well as conducting research into wetland wildlife.

We are looking to recruit a full-time volunteer for a 12 month period who will be based at our Headquarters in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire and will help provide support in all of the research undertaken by our Conservation Evidence department. This will include field, laboratory and desk based work, including field surveys and monitoring, examination of samples and specimens in the laboratory, data analysis, GIS, and generally supporting our team of scientists working to save wetlands for wildlife and people. This is a great opportunity for someone looking to develop a career in conservation research. Accommodation for this role is provided locally.

Who will be responsible for your role? Wetland Science Manager

Where will you be based? WWT Headquarters, Slimbridge Wetland Centre

How much time will it take? This is a full-time placement for 12 months, starting in August/September 2022

What will you be doing?

The role is flexible to suit the interests of the volunteer. Duties may include some or all of the following:

- Carrying out routine laboratory analysis of water/wastewater samples from our centres
- Assisting with practical research and monitoring activities. For example river chemistry, biological monitoring such as invertebrate surveys or eDNA surveys, water bird catches/ringing.
- Undertaking literature reviews to aid or inform WWT's conservation work.
- Desk based collation, management and analysis of data. For example water quality data, camera trap footage, swan behaviour research, GIS analysis of sites in the UK and internationally, and large/complex water bird databases
- Engaging with members of the public at our centres
- Attending meetings and participating in workshops on current conservation issues
- If volunteering as a student placement you will be able to carry out your own research project if required by your university as part of your assessment, supported by the expertise of WWT staff

Who are we looking for?

This is a mainly a laboratory and office and based role, with opportunities to participate in field based research activities. It would suit someone who would enjoy working in an applied research environment as part of an internationally renowned research team. We are looking for a passionate and rigorous scientist who loves wetland nature and supports the work of WWT.

This role will suit you if you:

- Have basic laboratory experience and health and safety awareness
- Are computer literate with a good practical knowledge of Microsoft Office. Some experience of R and/or GIS would be an advantage but not essential as development/training opportunities will be available as part of this role.
- Are experienced in both desk and office based research
- Have the ability to develop scientific ideas and design a suitable student research project
- Are proactive and able to complete tasks with a minimum of supervision, or independently under the direction of the conservation science team
- Are able to follow instructions and manage time efficiently
- Can learn new skills and develop existing skills to support the work of conservation science
- Are able to work in a team of staff and volunteers in both conservation science and other departments
- Are confident in engaging with a range of people in order to engage with visitors at our centres
- Are able to participate in team and department meetings as appropriate

The following would be desirable but not essential;

- A clean driving licence
- Past work/volunteering in nature conservation or for like-minded organisations
- Good GIS/statistical skills
- The ability to manage small research projects

How will you benefit?

- Accommodation including utility bills, will be provided locally (off-site)
- Currently there is use of a shared pool car for transport to/from site, there is also storage space for bicycles should you wish to bring one with you as another way of getting to site
- This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the science and research activities within an internationally renowned and multidisciplinary research department.
- Volunteer in an amazing environment with a vibrant research group
- You may have the opportunity to visit other WWT Wetland Centres across the UK
- If undertaking volunteering as a student placement, guidance for your personal research project is provided by friendly staff with significant experience in their field and strong links with students at a number of universities
- Training, support and suitable uniform is provided
- A discount is available in WWT café and shops
- Free entry to all WWT centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge

General Notes:

This is a full-time opportunity which will, from time to time, require volunteering during some evenings, weekends and public holidays. This role is unpaid but accommodation (including utility bills) is provided. The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement. There will be a training week at the Headquarters in Slimbridge for the successful candidate prior the commencement of their placement year.

We regret we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred in travelling to and from the centre, but any pre-agreed expenses incurred in the course of your duties will be reimbursed.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer opportunity is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

How to Apply:

Please go to www.wwt.org.uk/support/volunteer-with-wwt/student-placements/ to see details of this role and then complete and submit the application form. Please email amh.hannan@wwt.org.uk if you have any problems with completing the application form.

Closing Date:

Please return all completed application forms by **24th November 2021**. After this date successful applicants will be asked to come to the Slimbridge Wetland Centre for an informal interview during the week of the 3rd January 2022. This can also be arranged to be a Skype meeting. To find out more about the role and discuss availability after which a suitable candidate will be offered the placement.

Date raised: October 2021