



HWDT Volunteer Programme 2018

Your first steps in turning a passion for nature, into a career in conservation.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has been leading the way for the conservation of cetaceans in the Hebrides for over two decades. As the trusted voice and leading source of information in the region, HWDT research has critically advanced the understanding of Scotland's whales, dolphins and porpoises while working directly with communities to encourage the stewardship of our rich seas.

Now, HWDT are seeking **FOUR** dedicated HWDT Volunteers to assist in the delivery of our 2018 summer outreach and research programmes.

Join us, to help deliver our community outreach programme; collect data aboard our research vessel *Silurian*; gain experience in research techniques and environmental education and importantly, help us to protect our precious marine species.

You will be based in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, Inner Hebrides. Mull is an island of rich cultural heritage and rugged natural landscapes. Tobermory, a bustling harbour town, is a flourish of human activity in an otherwise wild environment. The waters around our island are frequently visited by minke whales, bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoises and a wide range of other amazing marine life.

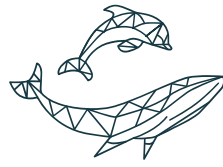
The perfect candidate will have confident communication skills, some pre-existing knowledge of marine biology and a hardworking, positive outlook.

Programme aims:

- To deliver engaging outreach from our Discovery Centre. This will include events, workshops and day-to-day interpretation of our conservation work and the marine world around us for visitors both inside and outside the Discovery Centre.
- To contribute towards HWDT's data collection programme aboard *RV Silurian*. This placement includes time spent at sea.
- To critically support our boat-based monitoring programme from land; including data and media offloading and logistical support.
- To contribute to our online community and expand our global reach through use and capture of captivating media.
- To support our science team with research tasks.
- To allow you the opportunity to gain valuable experience supporting Wildlife Guides at sea.

The role:

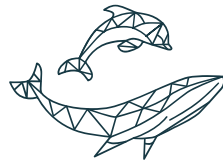
- You will be based in our Discovery Centre in Tobermory (approx. 3-4 days a week). Whilst in the centre, you will be involved in the following;



- Providing expert interpretation of the centre resources, our work and the species of the Hebrides to a public audience
 - Overseeing and leading activities within the centre
 - Providing customer service - securing new supporters and processing gift shop payments
 - Developing resources and plans for our extra-curricular environmental education programme
 - Supporting the delivery of our daytime and evening public events
 - Conducting data input, media archiving and other tasks in support of our Cetacean Monitoring Programme
 - Creating and editing audio, video and image media for our online platforms (including capturing captivating audio, video and images)
 - Engaging with our online supporters and community through social media - e.g. utilising Facebook Live, and Instagram
- You will be involved in the delivery of our engagement programme outside of the centre (approx. 1 - 2 day(s) a week) this will include;
 - The delivery of outdoor education and activities for children
 - Supporting weekly headland watches
 - Manning stalls at local shows and events
 - Supporting delivery of public talks around Tobermory
 - You will be given the opportunity to gain experience aboard WiSe accredited whale-watching vessel *MV Sula Beag* in collaboration with respected data-collection partner, Sea Life Surveys. Whilst aboard, you will be supporting Sea Life Survey's trained Wildlife Guides.
 - A period of your placement will be spent aboard HWDT research vessel *Silurian*. You will be tasked with assisting our Biodiversity Officer and boat crew in the delivery of our ongoing monitoring programme (approx 14+ days).

What you will gain:

- Experience of visual and acoustic boat-based survey collection aboard *RV Silurian* during a cetacean survey
- Training and experience in marine guiding and interpretation aboard a WiSe accredited whale-watching vessel
- Training and experience in developing and delivering environmental education and interpretation
- Opportunity to deliver public talks to a range of audiences



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- Training and experience in visitor engagement and customer service
- Guidance and experience in conducting computer-based tasks in support of our citizen science and photo-identification research
- Guidance and experience in use of media softwares
- Experience supporting the running of public events
- Knowledge of the inner workings of a marine NGO with active citizen science programmes
- Vital workplace experience for a career in marine conservation

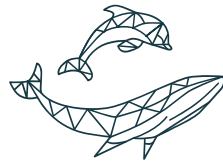
Essential criteria:

- Passion for the protection of our marine environment
- Self-motivated and in possession of high levels of initiative: must be able to monitor own workload to ensure self-led projects are delivered successfully
- Friendly, with a confident communication style
- Good computer competency; across online and desktop programmes and applications
- Passion to inspire and educate people of all ages
- Ability to live and work with colleagues as part of a small team
- Happy to work evenings and weekends

Desirable criteria:

- Degree in relevant science or environmental subject
- Knowledge of Northeast Atlantic cetaceans and their related conservation issues
- Previous experience using media edit software (preferably Adobe Suite)
- High levels of inventive creativity
- Experience using camera equipment
- Experience with data entry and databases – basic Access or Excel skills
- Previous customer service experience
- Full drivers licence and access to a car

We will provide:



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- Training and support
- Travel expenses incurred during the delivery of placement programme (not to include travel to and from Mull at beginning and end of placement)
- Bed and board whilst aboard *RV Silurian*
- Support in acquiring accommodation for the duration of placement

Unfortunately we cannot provide:

- Accommodation or living expenses

Please note: Tobermory is the largest town on the Isle of Mull with a good range of facilities including a co-op, pharmacy, theatre, music venue, pubs, gift shops and cafes. Other amenities you may require i.e. large high street chains, supermarkets, train station etc. can be found in Oban; a 35 minute drive and 45 minute ferry journey away. Please be aware that Mull is a remote island; only accessible by ferry links from the Scottish mainland.

This opportunity is unique in providing experience in support of both our outreach and research programmes, as well as relevant boat-based field experience.

Dates:

Monday 26th March - Friday 28th September 2018.

This voluntary position involves full-time working hours (37.5 hours across 5 days a week) including evenings and weekends. Candidates must be able to commit to the full 6 months.

To apply, please send a covering letter and up-to-date CV to Ella Potts, at visitorcentre@hwdt.org.

Application deadline is 19th of January. Interviews will be held the week commencing the 29th of January.