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Residential volunteering opportunities in the UK

Residential volunteering offers the chance to try things for a week or two or to dedicate a year or longer to working with an organisation, living away from home. Opportunities exist in a range of organisations, including environmental and conservation groups, care organisations and animal welfare. This list of agencies will help people considering long-term or full-time volunteering.

Contact the organisations you are interested in for further information and to apply for a placement. Some organisations accept volunteers from outside the UK.

Note that long-term volunteers living away from home can receive housing benefit, council tax benefit and income support for housing costs for a maximum of 13 weeks.

BTCV

Sedum House
Mallard Way
Doncaster
South Yorkshire
DN4 0RH

Tel: 01302 388 883

E-mail: information@btcv.org.uk

Website: <http://www.btcv.org>

The country's leading charity protecting the environment through practical action. The Natural Break programme of conservation working holidays enables volunteers to spend a week in spectacular settings learning new conservation skills.

- AGE: 16+ (overseas visitors, 18+)
- TIME: 2 days upwards
- COST: Prices start at around £60 per week, £40 for a weekend, and include food, accommodation, leadership and insurance.
- WORK: Various conservation tasks such as woodland management, pond clearance, dry stone walling and footpath construction. There is also the opportunity to make a longer-term commitment for 3-12 months at one of BTCV's volunteer centres, and international opportunities in 20 countries.
- Accepts volunteers from overseas

CSV

5th Floor, Scala House
36 Holloway Circus
Birmingham, B1 1EQ

Tel: 0800 374 991

Email: volunteer@csv.org.uk

Website: www.csv.org.uk/fulltimevolunteering

CSV offers full time volunteer placements away from home at hundreds of social care projects nationwide.

- AGE: 16+
- TIME: 4-12 months full time
- COST: Free. Accommodation, food, out of pocket expenses, £30 per week pocket money provided.
- WORK: Supporting people with disabilities to be able to live independently, both in their own home or at university. Mentoring and befriending young people at risk of offending, enabling people with mixed disabilities to access leisure facilities and social activities, work in special schools, homeless hostels, residential and day care centres.
- QUALIFICATIONS: No experience or qualifications required
- Volunteers must be a UK or EU national resident in the UK. Alternatively, volunteers from certain overseas countries can apply through a partnership organisation to volunteer with CSV. Contact details for partnership organisations are given on CSV's website.

INDEPENDENT LIVING ALTERNATIVES

Independent Living Alternatives

Trafalgar House

Grenville Place

London, NW7 3SA

Tel: 020 8906 9265

Email: enquiry@ILAnet.co.uk

Website: <http://www.ilanet.co.uk/>

Promotes the independence of people with disabilities who require physical support in every day life. It places volunteers, in the form of a partnership, to provide such support.

- AGE: 18+
- TIME: 4 months+
- COST: Board, lodging and pocket money provided. Travel expenses and all incidental expenses incurred whilst working for the project are paid.
- QUALIFICATIONS: None; all training will be provided. Driving licence useful.
- Accepts volunteers from abroad if they can speak and write English.

SENSE

Sense Holidays Team

101 Pentonville Road

London, N1 9LG

Tel: 0845 127 0060

Minicom: 0845 127 0062

E-mail: holiday@sense.org.uk

Website: <http://www.sense.org.uk>

Sense is a national voluntary organisation working with and for people who are deafblind and often with associated disabilities.

- AGE: 18 +
- TIME: 1 week
- COST: Sense provides full board and accommodation. Sense will also pay reasonable travel costs for students and unemployed volunteers.
- WORK: We need enthusiastic volunteers to help in our summer holiday programme for

deafblind children and adults. All holidays are supervised by one or two experienced leaders who are assisted by a team of volunteers to help give deafblind people the opportunity to have fun, make friends and have a go at all sorts of activities that they are often excluded from. The holiday programme starts at the end of July and finishes at the end of August.

- Accepts volunteers from overseas who are fluent in English. In addition they need to be able to provide us with their country's equivalent of a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure. We regret that we are unable to pay travel expenses for volunteers who are traveling from overseas.

LEE ABBEY COMMUNITY

The Warden

Lee Abbey

Lynton

Devon, EX35 6JJ

Tel: 01598 752621

E-mail: relax@leeabbey.org.uk

Website: www.leeabbey.org.uk

A Christian holidays and conference centre run by a community working for the renewal and refreshment of the church. A branch in London is a hostel for international students.

- AGE: 18+
- TIME: Minimum 1 year
- COST: Board, lodging and pocket money provided.
- WORK: Volunteers must be committed Christians. Applicants are invited to write to Lee Abbey with information about themselves, their backgrounds and why they would like to join the community.
- QUALIFICATIONS: None
- Applicants from overseas must have a very good command of English.

THISTLE CAMPS (THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND)

Thistle Camps

The National Trust for Scotland

Wemyss House

28 Charlotte Square

Edinburgh, EH2 4ET

Tel: 0844 493 2590

E-mail: thistlecamps@nts.org.uk

Website: <http://www.thistlecamps.org.uk>

Volunteers help with conservation and management of countryside properties cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. Volunteers should be physically fit for outdoor work.

- AGE: 16+
- TIME: 1 - 3 weeks
- COST: Volunteers make a £65 - £150 contribution towards project costs, with reductions for people who are unwaged.
- WORK: Practical conservation work on NTS properties all over Scotland, including the remote islands.
- Overseas volunteers welcome over 18 years old

THE NATIONAL TRUST- FULL TIME VOLUNTEER SCHEME

National Trust Central Volunteering Team

The National Trust

Heelis
Kemble Drive
Swindon, SN2 2NA
E-mail: volunteers@nationaltrust.org.uk
Web <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering>

The National Trust works for the preservation of places of historic interest or natural beauty in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Trust organises over 400 inexpensive working holidays.

- AGE: 18+
- TIME: Usually 3 - 12 months
- COST: Travel expenses; accommodation is often provided.
- WORK: Most placements are in wardening and countryside management; limited number of custodial, education or research placements in the houses.
- Overseas applicants are welcome

VITALISE

Shap Road Industrial Estate
Shap Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 6NZ

Tel: 0845 33 00 148

Email: volunteer@vitalise.org.uk or overseasvolunteer@vitalise.org.uk

Website: www.vitalise.org.uk

Vitalise is a leading UK Charity providing essential breaks for disabled people and carers at six centres across the UK. It also provides inspirational opportunities for volunteering, offering fantastic life changing experiences in a unique setting.

- AGE : 16+ No upper age limit
- TIME : Residential weeks, from 1 to 52!
- COST : Free
- WORK: Supporting adults and children with disabilities on holiday, in a fun and active environment along with other volunteers from all backgrounds and from all over the world. Loads of 'theme weeks' every year, from cricket to clubbing, cordon bleu, to Christmas shopping! Volunteers needed all year round, but especially in Spring and Autumn.
- Small Groups and Volunteers from overseas welcome.

WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP (WRG)

3 Norfolk Court
Norfolk Road
Rickmansworth
WD3 1LT

Tel: 01923 711 114

Email: enquiries@wrg.org.uk

Website: www.wrg.org.uk

Waterway Recovery Group organises week-long residential holidays called 'Canal Camps', where volunteers help restore the derelict inland waterways of Britain. It's a great opportunity for people to try their hand at something totally different and pick up some new skills along the way.

- AGE: 18 +
- TIME: 2 - 10 days

- COST: £10 - £60 (price includes food and accommodation)
- WORK: Various restoration tasks, scrub bashing, tree felling, canal clearance, demolition of old brickwork and stonework, dumper truck or digger driving...and lots more!!
- Accepts volunteers from overseas

Further information

The International Directory of Voluntary Work is divided up into residential, non-residential, short-term and long-term work in the UK and overseas. 290 pages, with fairly detailed information on each organisation. Price £12.95. Author Victoria Pybus.

Last reviewed: May 2009

For more information, please contact
Volunteering England Information Service
Information@volunteeringengland.org
Freephone/textphone: 0800 028 3304 (M-F, 9.30 – 5.30)
www.volunteering.org.uk/
Volunteering England
Regent's Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London N1 9RL
- [Access all of Volunteering England's Information Sheets](#)
- For more information on managing volunteers, please visit
[The Good Practice Bank](#)

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