

FOR 2021 POST-16 SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEAVERS

Many gap year organisations have been forced by the Coronavirus epidemic to postpone recruitment for many of their overseas volunteering and career experience programmes for school and college leavers.

However, the organisations listed below are able to offer some opportunities in the months from now until early 2022. All of the organisations are well known to us, and we recommend them unreservedly.

Name of organisation:

Africa & Asia Venture (AV)

Type of activity:

Group volunteering programs, working in primary and secondary schools.

Timing of placements:

Jan / Feb, April / May, July, Aug / Sept

Requirements for participants:

Age 17-25; young people who are adaptable, committed and resilient; they should have the desire, motivation and aptitude to help those less fortunate – and have a sense of humour!

Location of placements:

Africa (Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda) and Asia (China, India, Nepal and Thailand)

Financial arrangements:

AV is a not-for-profit social enterprise so participants have to meet the cost of their time with us. Programs cost from £29.33 per day.

Other relevant information:

AV has been operating for 25+ years and has had nearly 6,000 young people from 30 countries travel with us.

Website and email contacts:

www.aventure.co.uk;

info@aventure.co.uk.

Name of organization:

African Conservation Experience (ACE)

Type of activity:

Volunteering and internships overseas. Volunteering trips and internships can last from 1 to 12 weeks. Since 1999 we have enabled thousands of gap year travellers to fulfil their ambitions.

Timing of placements:

We offer flexible starting dates.

Requirements for participants:

Depending on their experience, participants must be aged 16+ or 18+. Previous experience is not required to volunteer. To help us find your ideal experience, we offer a personal consultation service before you book, to talk about your goals and ambitions for your gap year. This can make all the difference if you are thinking about a university application or future career, as well as enjoying your gap year to the full.

Location of placements:

Africa: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe.

Financial arrangements:

Financial arrangements:

Placements start at £575 per week, including transfers, meals and accommodation. Your trip will be financially protected through ATOL. We comply with the UK Package Travel Regulations, and we are ABTA members.

Other relevant information:

African Conservation Experience caters for all types of gap year travellers – animal lovers who want to save Africa's wildlife, challenge-seeking travellers, and those with an interest in careers in wildlife-based professions.

Website and email contacts:

www.conservationafrica.net

info@conservationafrica.net

Name of organisation:

Art History Abroad (AHA)

Type of activity:

2 to 12 week courses in cultural history and art here in the UK and to Italy.

Timing of placements:

Our courses run throughout the year.

Requirements for participants:

Ages 17 – 23. No specific qualifications needed except for a hungry mind

Location of placements:

Italy, France, UK and Berlin.

Financial arrangements :

Self-funded. Some bursaries and a scholarship are available.

Other relevant information:

Our courses turn the corner from education to creative thinking and practical intellect. Students mature by studying the creativity and culture of others. Ranging from the architecture, to social policy, town planning and art as well as philosophy, literature and music.

Website and email contacts:

www.arthistoryabroad.com

info@arthistoryabroad.com

Name of organisation:

BUNAC Travel

Type of activity:

Work and travel support packages in Canada. Winter and summer placements in world class ski resorts. Jobs include Ski Concierge, Spa Receptionist, Servers, Cooks, Stewards, Room Attendants, Front Desk Agents.

Timing of placements:

Winter: November 2021 (can go to Canada early to travel first)

Summer: June 2022 to September 2022

Winter : November 2022 to April 2023

Requirements for participants

18-35 years old, some previous work experience is desirable.

Location of placements:

Whistler & British Columbia

Ontario

Banff & Alberta

Financial arrangements:

BUNAC's Work Canada Ultimate package: £529

All job roles are paid at least minimum wage and you will be working full time.

Other relevant information

Apply for the IEC work visa to work in Canada. BUNAC will support you in your visa application. You can work in Canada for up to 24 months. BUNAC have support centres in Vancouver and Toronto to help with everything, including additional job support and social events while you are away.

Website and email contacts:

enquiries@bunac.org

www.bunac.org

Name of organisation:

Changing Worlds and Sporting Opportunities

Type of activity:

A range of sport and non-sport community and career development projects abroad.

Timing of placements:

We are resuming international projects in a select few countries in October onward in line with travel restrictions being lifted and taking close monitoring measures to minimise risk, due to Covid-19.

Requirements for participants:

On some placements, very basic experience is accepted, but on others we have strict requirements to accept participants. First check out programmes on our website and check the pre-requisites associated to them before applying.

Location of placements:

Global but with restrictions on access to a few destinations whilst managing pandemic challenges.

Financial arrangements:

Depending on length of stay but starting from GBP £500 for 2 weeks with an additional weekly charge for extended duration. This cost usually covers airport pick-up, accommodation, food, placement activities and full support.

Other relevant information:

Interested people should check our websites for the activities we provide and to get a feel for what we offer. Please then contact us to discuss travel possibilities for your interested travel dates.

Website and email contacts:

www.changingworlds.co.uk (info@changingworlds.co.uk)

www.sportingopportunities.com (info@sportingopportunities.com)

Name of organisation:

GAPFORCE

Type of activity

October and November 2021 - Expedition leader training course, Diving and marine conservation training courses. From January 2022 steady return of adventure travel and volunteering programmes.

Timing of placements:

2 weeks – 16 weeks

Requirements for participants

Minimum age 18

Location of placements:

UK, Europe, Central & South America, Asia, Australia

Financial arrangements

Participants pay fee to cover accommodation, meals, transport, staffing and activities

Other relevant information:

In 2019, GAPFORCE programmes passed external safety assessment by the YET for conformity to British Standard 8848 (a specification for the provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions and adventurous activities outside the UK). Also won two independent community choice awards in 2019 as voted for by customers.

Website and email contacts:

www.gapforce.org

operations@gapforce.org

Name of organisation:

Orchards Cookery (The Orchards School of Cookery)

Type of activity:

Residential & Online Cookery Course, *including advice and help on ski resort employment.*

Timing of placements:

5-10 day courses

Requirements for participants:

Over 16 years

Location of placements:

Near Stratford-upon-Avon. WR11 8UU

Financial arrangements:

£80 deposit to confirm booking. Course fees due 6 weeks before course

Other relevant information:

Orchards Cookery is a multi-award-winning residential cookery school that could be of interest to those wishing to:

1. Learn to cook / go into catering: we have a recruitment service to help students get jobs in chalets, villas, shooting, lodges, etc.
2. Do a ski season in a chalet– we specialise in training and recruiting chalet cooks.
3. Complete the Residential Project for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
4. Go to University: you can also earn money cooking during university holidays.
5. Work for Orchards Cookery! *We employ 10 gap year students.*

Website and email contact:

www.orchardscooker.co.uk

Isabel@orchardscookery.co.uk

Name of organisation:

Oyster Worldwide

Type of activity:

Volunteering and paid work opportunities overseas. Volunteering trips can last from 1 to 12 weeks, paid work positions are 6+ months.

Timing of placements:

Most of our volunteering programs have start dates every week - details of availability are on our website. The ski season work is available from November, January and March.

Requirements for participants:

Participants must be aged 17+. Previous experience not required to volunteer, but relevant work-experience is a necessity when applying for paid jobs.

Location of placements:

Austria – ski instructor paid work

Costa Rica – turtle conservation volunteering

Portugal – marine conservation or community volunteering

Romania – volunteer with bears

Spain – marine conservation or community volunteering

Financial arrangements:

Costs range start from £899 for the minimum duration of the above volunteer programs.

Other relevant information:

Travelling can boost confidence and independence, which is hugely beneficial for your future.

Website and email contact

www.oysterworldwide.com

emailus@oysterworldwide.com

Name of organisation:

Pod Volunteer

Type of activity:

Overseas volunteer placements at animal, conservation, education and teaching, building and community volunteering projects

Timing of placements:

1 – 12 weeks, start dates throughout the year.

Requirements for participants:

Motivation and enthusiasm to support the project!

Location of placements:

Belize, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ghana, India, Madagascar, Namibia, Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand – we are continually monitoring the global travel situation and offer flexibility with payments and date changes so that you can book with confidence. We will update volunteers of any changes to their placement due to coronavirus.

Financial arrangements:

Self-funded. Bursaries are available.

Other relevant information:

Pod Volunteer is an award-winning non-profit organisation arranging ethical, inspiring and supported volunteering opportunities around the world since 2001.

Website and email contact:

www.podvolunteer.org

info@podvolunteer.org

Name of organisation:

Projects Abroad

Type of activity:

Volunteering and Internships in Education, Childcare, Sports, Building, Wildlife, Conservation, Business, Law and Human Rights and Medicine and Healthcare.

Timing of placements:

Flexible dates all year round from 2 to 24 weeks. Placements available over the Christmas period.

Requirements for participants:

Most placements are suitable for students ages 15+. An interest in the placement area is required but no prior experience or relevant qualifications.

Location of placements:

Developing countries around the world. Not UK-based. Mostly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Financial arrangements:

Project is paid for by the individual student, covering accommodation, 3 meals a day, airport transfers, all project related transport and 24/7 staff support.

Other relevant information:

All our projects are fully refundable if they are affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

Website and email contact:

www.projects-abroad.co.uk

info@projects-abroad.co.uk

Name of organisation:

Raleigh International

Type of activity:

Raleigh Expedition: 4, 5, 7, and 10 week expeditions, consisting of community and environmental projects which contribute to achieving the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs), and an adventure leadership trek.

Re:Green: 2 and 4 week placements focusing on a conservation project and campaign training, and our longer placement also includes a remote leadership trek.

Timing of Placements:

Raleigh Expedition: spring, summer, and autumn.

Re:Green: spring, summer, autumn.

Requirements for participants:

Raleigh Expedition: volunteers need to be aged 17 to 24.

Re:Green: volunteers need to be aged 18 to 24.

Location of placements:

Raleigh Expedition: Costa Rica and Nepal.

Re:Green: Scotland.

Financial arrangements:

Raleigh Expeditions: fundraising targets are between £2,250 to £3,800. In country training and travel, project equipment, in country travel and medical insurance, food and accommodation are all included.

Re:Green : fundraising targets are between £875 and £1,595. Food, accommodation, transport throughout the programme, and project equipment are all included.

Other relevant information:

We are committed to ensuring our programmes are accessible to all young people. This includes several different grants leading to significantly reduced fundraising targets for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Volunteers report that our programmes raise aspirations, build confidence, and support better academic performance.

Website and email contact:

<https://raleighinternational.org/take-action/volunteer/>
info@raleighinternational.org

Name of organisation:

The Leap Overseas Ltd

Type of activity:

Team volunteering programs which combine adventure with global warming and climate change projects - this unique mix provides a varied and rewarding experience. Programmes vary from 4 to 8 weeks.

Timing of placements:

Year round but main team departures are in January, April, May, July and September. We are planning to send teams to Costa Rica and Kenya in October/Nov 2021. Programs in 2021 will start up in line with FCO advice.

Requirements for participants:

18+ motivated, enthusiastic team players. In some countries we can accommodate 17yr olds.

Location of placements:

South and Central America, Africa and Asia - we envisage Costa Rica and Kenya being open for travel in the autumn of 2021.

New programs in Ireland and Scotland which will be repeated next year.

Financial arrangements:

Costs start from £1200 for 2 weeks - all costs on our website and cover accommodation, food, project work, staff and 24/7 support.

Other relevant information:

The Leap was founded in 2002 and we have sent over 4000 Leapers overseas, we are also members of the Year Out Group and Gap Year Association.

Every country will have a new covid- risk assessment.

Website and email contacts:

www.theleap.co.uk

info@theleap.co.uk

Name of organisation:

The Year in Industry

Type of activity provided:

Paid placements in Engineering, IT/Computing, Science, Business & Finance with major UK companies. Working with professionals as junior engineer / scientist / technician / business finance.

Timing of placement:

Usually for a full year, but there may be flexibility for 2020 school/college leavers.

Requirements for applicants:

STEM subjects at A level or equivalent for most placements, expecting to go on to higher education. Evidence of self-motivation, work experience, interest in practical activities.

Locations of projects:

With companies throughout the UK.

Financial arrangements:

Salary paid by the company (not by YINI). If away from home, participant pays living expenses.

Other relevant information:

YINI provides support throughout your placement including a mentor, masterclasses, opportunities to enter competitions and Industrial Cadet's accreditation.

Website and contact details:

www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry

yinienquiries@etrust.org.uk

OTHER RECOMMENDED GAP ORGANISATIONS

The following organisations, which we know well and recommend, were unable to offer gap opportunities *within the time period specified (up to the first weeks of 2022)*. We suggest that those considering a gap year experience for later in 2021 and beyond might wish to visit their websites.

www.conservation.net

British Exploring Society
www.britishexploring.org

Childcare International
www.childint.co.uk

Global Volunteer Projects
www.globalvolunteerprojects.org

Karen Hilltribes Trust
www.karenhilltribes.org.uk

Project Trust
www.projecttrust.org.uk

Note: We must emphasise again that we receive no benefit whatsoever for recommending any of the organisations mentioned in this document.

OUR ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON CHOOSING A GAP YEAR PROVIDER

We suggest you go to our website www.independentgapadvice.org, where there is an advice section. If possible talk to past participants. In these difficult times we send our very best wishes to all students receiving their results this coming Thursday.

Callum Russell and Lawrence Lockhart