

North Sea Wildlife Officer Placements

Course Description and Person Specification

Title: Wildlife Officer Placement

Location: On board the DFDS King Seaways vessel, sailing from Newcastle (North Shields) to Amsterdam (Ijmuiden)

Term: 4 week training placement, consisting of 14 return North Sea sailings. This is split into 2 weeks on board, followed by 2 weeks off, followed by another 2 weeks on board.

We are able to offer the following dates for our Wildlife Officer Placements;

- 31st July to 14th August & 28th August to 11th September 2019 – **Male Placement** (4 weeks total on board)

Please note that all of your accommodation and food is provided when on board and NOT during the 2 week off period

Please note you must be aged 21 or over to apply.

Hours: The on-board ORCA Wildlife Centre is open 6pm-10pm daily, but work outside this period may also be required. Working hours are variable and will include some early mornings and late evenings and during weekends with the appropriate number of breaks included

Cost: £695

About ORCA: ORCA is a pioneering marine conservation charity dedicated to forging links between people and the sea. ORCA is committed to the study of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and promoting their conservation through enthusing, inspiring and educating others.

About the Wildlife Officer Placement Programme: ORCA's unique Wildlife Officer Education Programme carries out vital research and monitoring in the understudied offshore marine environment and promotes wildlife watching and conservation through educational activities on board the King Seaways passenger ferry, sailing across the North Sea. The programme is well established in the North Sea with DFDS, running for over 12 years. We have a fantastic wildlife centre on board, where presentations, children's activities and workshops take place. Volunteers will complete the ORCA Wildlife Officer Training Programme and gain one-to-one training in field research, species identification and data collection and undertake training in environmental education and guiding techniques.

This is a fantastic opportunity for passionate, outgoing individuals to train under the supervision of our North Sea Wildlife Officers on board the King Seaways passenger ferry travelling between Newcastle (UK) – Ijmuiden (Netherlands) for a four-week placement in 2019.

What you will get out of it:

- ✓ Ship based Wildlife Guiding experience
- ✓ Hands on environmental education training (both formal and informal)
- ✓ Marine mammal identification and offshore survey experience
- ✓ Customer service skills development
- ✓ Experience living and working as a member of the crew on a commercial offshore vessel
- ✓ Opportunity to see North Sea whales, dolphins and porpoises as well as other marine life and seabirds – we most commonly sight the harbour porpoise, white-beaked dolphin, bottlenose dolphin and minke whale!
- ✓ Vital workplace experience for a career in marine conservation/education

Programme Dates:

Applicants can join the on board team for a single 4 week placement during the research season; multiple/successive placements are not possible on this programme.

Placements are confirmed for the following dates in 2019:

- 31st July to 14th August & 28th August to 11th September 2019 – **Male Placement** (4 weeks total on board)

Each placement is split into 2 weeks on board, 2 weeks off the ship (rest time) and then 2 weeks back on board. Please note that accommodation and food is not provided on the 2 week off period and no volunteer work for ORCA needs to be completed during the two weeks off.

Each placement will consist of 14 return North Sea sailings in which you will live and work on board DFDS King Seaways alongside ORCA's Wildlife Officers and members of the DFDS crew. Wildlife Officer Placements will complete the ORCA Wildlife Guide Training Programme and work alongside staff to deliver our unique Wildlife Education Officer Programme (WOEP) in the North Sea.

Accommodation and living expenses:

This is a summer residential training placement; full board (all accommodation in a shared crew cabin with the Wildlife Officer and food costs), uniform and equipment is provided. Please make sure you bring suitable attire for working outdoors and at sea. You'll simply need to arrange your own travel to and from the Port of Tyne, North Shields, Newcastle.

You will also be required to obtain a Danish Medical Certificate to work on board, which costs around £80.

Please note that due to cabin availability you will be sharing a cabin with the North Sea Wildlife Officer for the duration of the placement. Please note that you will be on board as the only Wildlife Officer Placement, accompanied by a Senior Wildlife Officer.

Wildlife Officer Placement Roles and Responsibilities:

Whilst you are on board the DFDS KING Seaways you are representing ORCA and DFDS at all times.

- ✓ Carry out morning and evening deck watches with passengers; spotting and identifying North Sea wildlife for people of all ages
- ✓ Carry out daily offshore marine mammal surveys; collecting and recording effort and sightings data
- ✓ Assist the Wildlife Officer in providing a variety of both formal and informal education activities for passengers of all ages



- ✓ Assisting the Wildlife Officer with the running of the on board Wildlife Centre
- ✓ Deliver daily presentations and evening lectures about marine wildlife and the threats they face
- ✓ Assist with administration tasks including recording talk numbers, donations, sales and memberships
- ✓ Provide a high quality customer experience for all passengers engaging with the programme
- ✓ Take photographs and assist with writing the weekly blog
- ✓ Develop new wildlife education projects to be implemented on board

Person Specification: The most important requirement for trainees is a positive outlook, lots of energy and a big smile!

- ✓ Friendly, confident open communication style
- ✓ Keenness to learn new skills
- ✓ Previous customer service experience
- ✓ Passionate about marine conservation
- ✓ Good level of fitness with the ability to spend extended time on boats in sometimes rough seas
- ✓ *Desirable (but not essential) – fluent in Dutch, German and/or French*

Please note a valid passport and Danish Medical Certificate are required for this post.

For more information, you can read the previous Wildlife Officer blogs here: <https://www.orcaweb.org.uk/get-involved/become-an-orca-wildlife-officer/blogs/category/dfds-wildlife-officers>

ORCA would like to thank DFDS for their generous support. For more information about DFDS please visit their website: <https://www.dfdsseaways.co.uk/>

You must be aged over 21 to apply.