

# Volunteer Placements



## Welcome

Firstly thank you for considering a voluntary placement at Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth.

In this booklet you will find out all you need to know about our voluntary placements, the application process and how to apply.

We really appreciate the hard work of our volunteer team and would be delighted for you to join us.

A volunteer placement at Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth is a lot of hard work, but also lots of fun. As well as gaining experience to further your career, you will make some great memories.

Previous participants in our voluntary scheme have gone on to work in some amazing places such as an Aquarium in Dubai, Australia Zoo and even right here as an aquarist.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Robert Davidson

Displays Supervisor

Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth

**Thank you for your interest in joining Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth's voluntary programme. Please read all information in this booklet carefully before applying to join the programme.**

Once you have read through this information you can apply by filling in our **application form**.

We are looking for confident and enthusiastic people to join our volunteer team; therefore we will not accept enquiries or applications from parents or guardians.

You must be **over 18** to participate in our volunteer programme.

## **Interview**

After you have completed your application form, if you have been successful you will be invited to an interview.

This is so we can get to know you a bit better and see if you will fit in with our team. You will also be able to ask some questions to see if the placement is right for you!

The interview will consist of a short presentation followed by some general questions.

We would like to see that you are enthusiastic about wildlife, eager to learn and ready to get your hands dirty (sometimes literally!).

## **Presentation**

As part of the interview you will be asked to give a short (5 minute) presentation on something which you are passionate about. This can be absolutely anything and does not have to relate to fish or aquaria.

## **The next steps...**

If you are successful, we will contact you to arrange your start date.

## **Deferring start date**

Our volunteer program is extremely popular and occasionally we will have no spaces available to start. In this case you may be asked to defer your start until the next available intake.

## **What we expect from you and what we will deliver**

Our volunteer placements are designed to give you the skills you need to succeed in a career working in an aquarium or similar industry. Therefore we require you to follow the same set of rules that our staff follow.

You will be expected to work from 9.30am until all tasks are finished (usually around 5pm) and we require a commitment of at least one day per week.

### **Uniform**

You must provide your own work boots, black trousers and plain dark blue top.

Please note that the aquarium can get cold in the winter, so layers are advised.

You also need to ensure the following:

- Clean, short and unpainted nails
- Long hair tied back
- Uniform is clean
- Clean shaven or a tidy beard.

We will provide you with any safety equipment or PPE which you need to carry out your duties.

If you cannot provide the above or meet our dress code each and every day you will not be allowed to start your day.

## **Duties**

During your placement you will be expected to carry out the following tasks. This list is not exhaustive and will be subject to the relevant training.

- Food preparation
- Assisting with animal care
- Cleaning and de-algae-ing of tanks
- Keeping the aquarium clean (sweeping, mopping, litter picking)
- Assisting with public talks and feeds
- Assisting with school groups
- Helping out on special events (we may ask you to help outside of your normal days)

As well as helping look after our animals, you are also here to help our visitors have a great day. Interaction with visitors is essential in this role.

## **Your first days**

On your first day please arrive by 9.30am.

You will get a tour of the building, a health and safety briefing and will be introduced to the team.

After your safety briefing and paperwork are complete you will spend time getting to know the team and taking in some of our talks and feeds.

On day two you will be shadowing one of our aquarists for the day.

Here you will learn all about the species we have at Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth and get an idea of the day to day running of the aquarium.

## **Your Progress**

Throughout your voluntary program you will follow our stages of training. This will ensure that you are continuously developing your skills and learning new things.

These stages will start with basic tasks and develop into more hands on activities.

Like what you see? Click the link below to apply and start your journey with us at Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth.

[Application Form](#)