

## Seagrass Nursery Intern

<b>Start date:</b>	Between July-September 2023.
<b>Contract length</b>	40 weeks minimum.
<b>Salary:</b>	Unpaid position: however, all travel expenses will be covered.
<b>Location:</b>	This position will be based at Pendine, with occasional outreach and fieldwork travels.
<b>Deadline for application:</b>	Please send a CV and cover letter (1-page maximum) to <a href="mailto:issy@projectseagrass.org">issy@projectseagrass.org</a> The deadline is <b>24<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b> ; interviews will be carried out the first week of March online, and decisions will be made in mid-March.

<b>Placement Description</b>	<p>This internship will support the work being carried out at the seagrass nursery. Seagrasses are the unsung heroes of our coastal seas. As much as 92% of the UK's seagrass has been lost – restoring it is vital for ocean health, our climate, fisheries and coastal livelihoods.</p> <p>Project Seagrass and Salix RSK are working in partnership to achieve the vision of creating a fully sustainable seagrass nursery operation in West Wales to support restorative activities in the wild. The vision is to have large saltwater lagoon ponds filled with mature seagrass, where seeds and plants can be sustainably harvested at scale. These seeds and plants will then supplement future seagrass restoration projects in the UK, increasing seagrass habitats to support biodiversity, people &amp; our planet.</p> <p>The first project of the nursery has been the Seagrass Seeds of Recovery project which is a collaborative and innovative project led by Affinity Water between a range of partners linked to the water industry and funded by OfWat to create a pilot project for seagrass restoration in the Essex and Suffolk region. Project Seagrass has used these funds to create an initial pilot seagrass nursery involving extensive experimentation. This project links to the wider Seagrass Ocean Rescue collaboration between Project Seagrass, Swansea University and WWF that seeks to facilitate, inspire and act to restore 2,500 hectares of seagrass by 2030. Building on recent successful projects in Dale in West Wales, it is currently working to improve seagrass restoration methods for upscaling and to understand the applicability of seagrass sites for future restoration.</p> <p>The placement will involve a variety of marine science duties, including office-, laboratory- and field-based activities. Depending on the timing of project activities, duties may involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine maintenance of seagrass aquarium facilities and equipment</li> <li>• Surveying and monitoring ongoing seagrass planting experiments</li> <li>• Collecting and storing seagrass seeds from existing healthy seagrass meadows for planting during ongoing restoration projects</li> <li>• Collecting and handling scientific data</li> <li>• Taking part in public outreach and education activities (online and/or in-person)</li> <li>• Responsibility for following health and safety guidelines during all operations</li> <li>• Engaging with the wider Swansea University and Project Seagrass teams during regular meetings and informal discussions.</li> </ul> <p>Marine science and conservation employment is extremely competitive and employers value work experience very highly during recruitment.</p>
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<p><b>Learning Outcomes</b></p>	<p>With this placement, we hope to offer a broad and accessible work experience , which will undoubtedly develop their employability skills and boost their CVs without the costs and other barriers associated with volunteering. As an internationally-renowned centre of expertise for seagrass science and restoration, this association alone will be of value to the candidate(s) and employment references will be available on successful completion of a placement.</p> <p>Furthermore, the placement will benefit from being embedded amongst our varied inter-disciplinary team of researchers, technicians, educators and social scientists. They will have the opportunity to work with and learn from people at all stages of their careers, from project interns to senior academic staff, gaining insight into the various roles and pathways available in university-based marine biology work. Practical skills that will be developed include fieldwork skills (e.g. species identification, intertidal and/or underwater survey methods, data collection and handling, equipment maintenance), laboratory skills (e.g. following protocols, processing biological samples), health and safety responsibilities and interpersonal skills (e.g. professional engagement in meetings and discussions). There may also be opportunities to take part in public engagement and education activities, which are increasingly recognised as a crucial part of any marine conservation work.</p>
<p><b>Candidate Specifications</b></p>	<p><b>This placement is open to applications from students studying a degree in Marine Biology, Aquaculture, Biosciences, Biology, Zoology, Environmental Sciences, Geography with a keen interest in marine conservation and restoration.</b></p> <p>Desirable skills include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to work flexibly within a dynamic team according to the requirements of the project.</li> <li>• Ability to follow written protocols and verbal instructions with attention to detail</li> <li>• Foundation knowledge of seagrass systems, intertidal and shallow subtidal ecology.</li> <li>• Experience in aquaculture, aquarium systems, marine biology fieldwork.</li> <li>• UK driving license.</li> <li>• Experience of collecting and handling scientific data</li> <li>• Enthusiasm for engaging with the wider team and members of the public</li> <li>• Appreciation of the importance of scientific rigour when undertaking duties</li> <li>• Appreciation of the importance of following health and safety guidelines when undertaking duties.</li> <li>• Desirable if Welsh Speaking.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Placement Supervisor and Contact</b></p>	<p>Issy Inman- <a href="mailto:issy@projectseagrass.org">issy@projectseagrass.org</a>          If you have any enquires about the placement, please contact Issy Inman.</p>