



River Holme Connections

Year in industry placement 2023/2024

Background

From its source on the moorlands above Holme, West Yorkshire, the River Holme winds its way through the countryside and villages before reaching Huddersfield town centre where it joins the River Colne. The river over the years has been the lifeblood of villages, a leisure facility for anglers, walkers and a place for locals and visitors to relax and enjoy the views. Yet, years of neglect, sewage discharges, the arrival of invasive species and littering had taken their toll.

A group of like-minded individuals decided it was time for a change, and in 2015 they founded the charity "River Holme Connections." With the help of dedicated volunteers, the charity is passionate about making the River Holme a better place for people and wildlife.

The Placement

The successful student will be based in the charity's office in Honley (Huddersfield, West Yorkshire), working alongside the small team of staff, trustees and volunteers. The role will be roughly 50% office based and 50% field based.

The student will have the opportunity to get involved in all the work of the charity, including environmental education work (with primary school children and young adults). The placement student will also get involved in practical river restoration and conservation work with volunteers such as tree planting, footpath improvements, wildflower planting, invasive non-native plant control, citizen science work (riverfly sampling), helping at public events, social media (facebook, twitter and instagram) updates, funding bids, river surveying, geographical information system updates (QGIS) and general admin work. The majority of practical work carried out is seasonal.

Placement duration

11 month placement (expected start July 2023)

Stipend

A stipend of £6,000 will be paid in monthly instalments.

Working hours

Full time, 37.5 hour week, Flexible working hours.

Other benefits

An annual leave allowance, travel allowance for work related travel but not commuting (£1,000) and City & Guilds Training will also be provided in strimming/brushcutters, the safe use of pesticides (PA1), knapsack spraying on land and water (PA6 AW). First aid training will also be provided.



Experience/personal skills required

The student should have a keen interest in environmental education work, freshwater ecology and river restoration. A good understanding of ecological principles relating to rivers and freshwater would be beneficial.

The position will involve outdoor and in-river (wading) work in all weathers including practical river restoration tasks with volunteers, Japanese knotweed control work, tree planting, river surveying and education work.

Students should be proficient in computer use, should be confident using Microsoft Office software and social media platforms (facebook, twitter and Instagram) and be a good communicator.

An enhanced DBS check will be required as part of the role (for working with children and inspiring the next generation of river guardians!).

Submission requirements

Please send a CV and covering letter by email to Pam King at info@riverholmeconnections.org

Your letter should explain why you are interested in this placement, what you think you can contribute to the role, what you hope to get from it in terms of your skills/personal development.

Submissions must be received no later than **5pm on Sunday 22nd of January 2023**.

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and in particular those that are currently under represented in our workforce.



For further information, see the following links:

www.riverholmeconnections.org

<https://www.riverholmeconnections.org/annual-report-2021>

<https://www.facebook.com/RiverHolmeConnections/>

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Honley, West Yorkshire, HD9 6AA

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riversteward@riverholmeconnections.org

or Natasha Houghton (our current "Year in Industry" student)

YII@riverholmeconnections.org

Tel: 01484 661756

Reflections from Natasha on her year so far:

I couldn't be happier at my placement with River Holme Connections, which has given me a variety of experience within the environmental charity sector through involvement in practical river restoration and conservation projects as well as community engagement and project management work. There have also been countless opportunities to develop skills through full accredited training which has given me valuable qualifications that will be useful when applying for future careers. As well as delivering charity work, it has been great to work alongside a passionate team who are more than happy to support with personal projects to allow you to achieve everything you would want to during the year!