



River Holme Connections

Year in industry placement 2024/2025

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 2024)

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 physical 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 Jane Skilling 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 28th January 2024**.

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.facebook.com/RiverHolmeConnections/>
[Annual Report 2022 - River Holme Connections](#)

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

Tel: 01484 661756

admin@riverholmeconnections.org

or Arwen Carmona (our current "Year in Industry" student)

Yll@riverholmeconnections.org

Tel: 01484 661756

Reflections from Arwen on their year so far:

"On my placement year so far, I have worked on practical tasks such as meadow creation, invasive species control, hedge laying and tree planting. Running education sessions and engagement events has helped build my confidence and I have enjoyed inspiring others about the river and its wildlife. I have also got to lead volunteers on practical tasks and citizen science projects. Overall, working on a wide variety of River Holme Connections' projects has given me a wealth of experience that will be useful for my future career in the environmental sector."