**Transition University of St Andrews: Volunteer Task Description**

**Position:** Biodiversity Information Intern

**Aims:** To contribute to biodiversity knowledge of the University of St Andrews

**Main Tasks:** To support the development of the University’s biodiversity strategy, to conduct biodiversity surveys at various locations in St Andrews and input data into common database

**Time commitment:** 2 hours per week.

**Times of day:** 0900h - 1700h

**Base:** Transition University of St Andrews, Woodburn Place.

**Skills needs:**

 1. Reliability

 2. Attention to detail

**Benefits to Volunteer:**

 1. Work experience (See attached Skills Map)

 2. Research experience

 3. A Transition University of St Andrews volunteer pack

 5. Compatible with Saltire Awards scheme for volunteers aged 12- 25.

**For further information email transition@st-andrews.ac.uk or call 01334 464000.**

**Transition University of St Andrews: Environmental Skills Map**

**Position:** Biodiversity Information Intern

At Transition University of St Andrews we are keen to ensure that our volunteers receive maximum benefit for their time spent on assisting with our projects. As a consequence, we try to ensure our volunteer positions enhance the skill set of the participants.

We have teamed up with The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and the Careers Centre to match our positions with the environmental skills set required for those wishing to work in the environment profession. The table below outlines which training opportunities we think this position offers.

|  |
| --- |
|  Sustainability Skills and Knowledge Set  |
| Knowledge and Understanding | Understand Environmental and Sustainability Principles | **X** |
| Understand Environmental Policy Issues | **X** |
| Awareness of Environmental Management and Assessment Tools |  |
| Aware of Environmental Legislation and Know How to Assess Compliance |  |
| Aware of Key Business and Commercial Tools |  |
| Analytical Thinking | Collect Data and Undertake Analysis and Evaluation | **X** |
| Research and Plan Sustainable Solutions | **X** |
| Communication | Determine Effective Communication Methods |  |
| Engage with Stakeholders |  |
| Sustainable Practice | Support the Implementation of Environmental Management and/or Assessment Tools | **X** |
| Propose Ways to Improve Environmental Performance | **X** |
| Aware of How a Changing Environment Creates Opportunities and Risks for Organisations | **X** |
| Leadership for Change | Support Change in An Organisation | **X** |
| Encourage Others to Improve Sustainability | **X** |



**Transition University of St Andrews: Benefit to the Organisation**



**Position:** Biodiversity Information Volunteer

At Transition University of St Andrews we recognise that our volunteers like to know how they are contributing to the work of our organisation. Most of our volunteers will contribute to many aspects of Transition, however, we have identified this role as being particularly complementary with our **Knowledge and Research** Project.

Through our **Knowledge and Research** project we aim to understand more about sustainability issues that affect the University. This volunteer position will help us establish baseline data for biodiversity in key locations in St Andrews.

We think knowing about biodiversity is important for a number of reasons:

* It acts as a monitor the general health of the environment in St Andrews
* It helps indicate the environmental resilience of an area
* It allows us to identify areas which need further improvement
* It helps us compare the environmental credentials of St Andrews with other Universities
* A number of certification schemes require biodiversity readings so it provides us with the information to achieve the top environmental standards in Higher Education Institutes.