## 27th – 31st July 2020 at Malham Tarn FSC, Yorkshire

### Background to the Summer School and being a Mentor

The BES Undergraduate Summer School has been running since 2015. Each year, we provide 50 fully funded places for 1st and 2nd year undergraduates to participate in a range of exciting ecological activities and careers sessions. The delivery of the Summer School is supported by a team of 6 mentors. We invite PhD students to apply as mentors, as many of the undergraduate students will be considering doing a PhD and therefore benefit from advice given by current PhD students.

Mentors are given a number of responsibilities and opportunities during the Summer School. Firstly, each mentor is assigned a group of around 8 undergraduates as their mentor group. Mentors will communicate with their group, via email, ahead of the Summer School to help students prepare and begin to talk to one another. Together, mentors will plan and deliver a social programme to complement the scientific programme. These activities will take place in the evenings and may be things such as icebreakers, quizzes and movie nights. Mentors are also able to run and deliver their own sessions within the science programme. These could be careers sessions such as CV skills or choosing the right PhD, or they might be subject sessions such as bird ID skills or stats. Additional roles will include assisting in the science programmes and generally being on hand to support students during the School.

The 2020 Summer School is taking place **July 27th-31st 2020** at [Malham Tarn FSC Centre](https://www.field-studies-council.org/locations/malhamtarn/). The BES will cover your transport costs to the centre, and you will be provided with accommodation and meals. You will also be required to attend a First Aid Training weekend, taking place **20th-23rd March 2020**. Travel, accommodation and meals will be covered for this too and you will receive a First Aid in Remote Locations qualification.

Aside from attending the First Aid Training and the Summer School itself, you should expect that some additional time will be required to plan sessions and to participate in online meetings with other mentors and the Education Officer/Manager.

The Summer School is full-on and exhausting, but it is a fantastic event and an opportunity to gain valuable experience. All 6 of our 2019 mentors reported that being a mentor has been a benefit to them. These benefits included: increased confidence; experience of planning and delivering sessions; the opportunity to share ideas and network with others; built connections with the BES; development of transferable skills that are needed for employment. It’s also really fun!

*‘One of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences of my PhD in terms of teaching and working with undergraduates. It has reinforced my wish to teach in the future.’*

*‘I loved the reciprocity in learning between the mentors and BES staff.’*

Mentors, 2019.

### Summer School Mentor Application Form

You should return this form to [Christina@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:Christina@britishecologicalsociety.org) no later than **9am Monday 13th January 2020**.

#### Contact details:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Email |  |

#### Academic details:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| University |  |
| Year of PhD completion |  |
| PhD title |  |

Please give a lay summary of your research to date (around 200 words).

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#### Mentoring:

Please provide a brief summary of the areas in which you think you could provide mentoring and advice to Undergraduates. *It may be subject specific, career stage, equality and diversity or anything else you think is relevant. It might also be a session that you would want to deliver.*

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Please record any teaching experience you have or would like to gain through the Summer School.

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#### Career Aspirations

Why have you applied to be a mentor at the summer school? *You should include what you hope to gain from participating in the school and how you see this experience contributing to your studies in the next few years.*

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Please tell us what your current career aspirations might be. *We do not expect fine detail on where you see your career going but it is useful for us to have some knowledge about your aspirations so that we can provide you with support where possible.*

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#### First Aid Training

A First Aid Training weekend will be taking place at Malham Tarn FSC, **20th-23rd March 2020**. You do need to attend this weekend as it will provide you with the Outdoor First Aid qualification necessary for the Summer School. It will also be an opportunity to meet the other mentors and begin planning sessions for the Summer School.

Please confirm that you can attend the training:

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

Please let us know if there is any extra information that you would like to share with the BES regarding your application.

#### 16-18 Summer School

We also organise a Summer School for 16-18 year olds, which will be at Malham Tarn FSC Centre too. It will take place **19th-24th July 2020**. If you would rather be a mentor for this Summer School, please let me know and I can pass your contact details on to Karen Devine, who leads on this event.

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