Scottish Natural Heritage National Nature Reserve Student Placements

Placement allowance: £100 per week student placement payment paid monthly

Hours: 37hr per week including some weekend and unsociable hours working.

Locations:
- Loch Leven NNR
- Tentsmuir & Isle of May NNRS,
- Caerlaverock & Cairnsmore of Fleet NNRS,
- Forvie & Muir of Dinnet NNRS
- St Cyrus NNR
- Creag Meagaidh NNR
- Beinn Eighe NNR
- Rum NNR
- Flanders Moss, Blawhorn Moss & Loch Lomond NNR's

Length of Placements: 12 months.

Number of placements: There are 9 placement opportunities available

SNH are offering student placement opportunities on some of Scotland’s top National Nature Reserves, these are open to Scotland’s Rural College Students those students who are in full-time education at SRUC and have a written acceptance of enrolment to continue higher education studies with the college.

The Student placements for 2017/18 are:

- Loch Leven NNR SRUC Student Placement
- Fife NNRS SRUC Student Placement
- Dumfries NNRS SRUC Student Placement
- Stirling NNRS SRUC Student Placement
- Grampian NNRS SRUC Student Placement x2
- South Highland NNRS SRUC Student Placement x3

Should you wish to apply for the placements please contact your SRUC Programme Manager for more information about the scheme and for an application form.

For more information about our National Nature Reserves please visit the NNR website

All applications must be submitted to your SRUC Programme Manager by Friday 17th March 2017
**Process timetable**

Candidate interviews – week beginning 15th May

Successful applicants notified and allocated to NNR – week beginning 22nd May

All placements start - **Monday 3rd July**

Student placements will be expected to attend training events included in the training programme which is likely to include a workplace induction, Working with the public outdoors training, outdoor first aid and relevant accredited training courses.

**Scottish Natural Heritage**

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland’s wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

A high priority for the Scottish Government is its commitment to addressing youth employment through a broad range of approaches. At Scottish Natural Heritage we are contributing to this agenda by developing opportunities for young people. We have a range of schemes designed to help young people get into rewarding employment.

**National Nature Reserves**

Scotland’s National Nature Reserves (NNR’s) are a suite of high quality nature sites showcasing the best of Scotland’s natural heritage. Being managed to provide the best places for people to see the best of nature distinguishes our NNR’s from other protected areas meanwhile conservation of nature is still the primary consideration in every NNR management decision.

SNH manages 30 NNRs as part of a wider suite of 41 throughout Scotland, and these placements offer the successful candidates the opportunity to work with experienced Reserve Managers and their teams on some of the best of these reserves.

**SNH/SRUC Student placement programme**

A high priority for the Scottish Government is its commitment to addressing youth employment through a broad range of approaches. At Scottish Natural Heritage we are contributing to this agenda by developing opportunities for young people through our Youth Employment Programme which includes a range of schemes designed to assist young people to get into rewarding employment. These placements will facilitate the successful students gaining hands-on work experience and developing their skills in SNH with experts in the conservation land management field.

**Placement Specification (all placements)**

There are 9 placements on offer at 9 locations across Scotland. All placements will involve regular late and early working hours, weekend and bank holidays work; candidates should be prepared to work flexible hours accordingly. Some lone working will be required. Although each placement is ‘attached’ to a particular office and reserve(s) there will be opportunities
for placements to work on different NNRs across Scotland. The placements will be subject
to a Disclosure Scotland check.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate an enthusiasm for Scotland’s wildlife and
a keenness to develop new skills. Successful candidates must demonstrate the skills below.

**Essential**
- Possess a full driving licence - Check individual placement for more details.
- It is expected that all placements will demonstrate an ability to get to their placement on
time even outside of normal office hours.
- Gaining a basic Disclosure Scotland certificate.

**Desirable**
- A keenness to learn new skills and develop existing ones;
- An interest in and a basic understanding of the ecology of habitats & species in Scotland
and their associated management issues;
- Interest in, or knowledge of conservation management and/or reserve management;
- Demonstrated people skills; including working in a team and with the public or volunteers.
- Be physically fit enough to cope with rough terrain, inclement weather conditions in
remote areas;
- Knowledge of Scotland’s countryside and its natural history;
- Species identification skills;

**Further information (all placements)**

**Equipment required**
Weather at all the sites can be variable, and you will need appropriate outdoor clothing and
footwear. SNH will supply any personal protective equipment you need to undertake tasks
safely including waterproofs, steel toe work boots and wellingtons, gloves and also some
corporate garments. These may vary depending upon the nature of the placement location.
When the placement ends, these must be returned to SNH.

**Health and Safety**
You will be given information about Health and Safety relevant to the tasks you are
undertaking, including actions required to minimise risks. You must comply with all SNH’s
Health and Safety requirements. If/when you are alone on the NNR you must comply with
SNH’s lone working procedures.

**Training associated with the role**
You will be given training to enable you to undertake and develop your placement.
All placements will be expected to take part in the SNH Working with the Public Outdoors
training course, Emergency Outdoor First Aid and any other training essential to the post.
Placement adverts each provide more detail on specific skills training available.

**Induction**
You will be given a placement induction early in your placement. This will cover important
aspects of Health and Safety, SNH and how the organisation works both at a corporate and
local level. We will make sure you have the information you need to undertake any tasks
effectively. It also ensures that we understand your needs, and meet best practice in
placement management.
Reimbursement of expenses

You will receive a student placement payment of £100 a week which is reimbursed monthly through payroll. At times you may be expected to travel to other locations for training or to visit and work on other sites, costs for this type of travel will be met by SNH. If you have any questions about reimbursement of business travel expenses please contact your supervisor. Your supervisor must approve each journey in advance.

Identification

You may be required to wear a badge of identification whilst on the NNR and SNH branded clothing. This will be provided by your placement supervisor and must be returned to SNH at the end of your placement.

Attendance

All placements will involve regular weekends, evenings and bank holidays, and unsociable hours in particular early morning starts. Candidates should be prepared to be available to work flexible hours accordingly. The core office hours will be 08:30 – 17:30

Holiday leave

30 days per annum, this allowance includes 5 fixed Holiday leave days (St Andrews Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year’s Day and 2nd January)

Placement duration: 12 months

Start date

The start date for all placements is **Monday 3rd July 2017**
Loch Leven NNR SRUC Student Placement Description

NNR(s): Loch Leven NNR
Office location: Kinross

Accommodation available - No
Full driving licence required - No, but a very strong preference will be given to candidates with a full driving licence.

The majority of time will be spent on the Loch Leven NNR and based at the Kinross office. Loch Leven NNR is an internationally important wetland site with huge numbers of wildfowl present throughout the winter months frequently these can exceed 30,000 and occasionally 50,000. It has an equally important colony of breeding species including numerous tufted duck, gadwall, shoveler and much more. The botanically rich shoreline is home to rare species such as lesser butterfly orchid, coralroot orchid, holy grass and the Loch Leven spearwort. The National Nature Reserve covers over 1800ha and many different habitats offering a diverse experience to the successful candidate but particularly the opportunity to hone ornithological skills and develop practical habitat /estate skills too. Surrounded by 13 miles of all abilities trail and visited by around 225,000 visitors it is a busy site and placements are expected to interact and communicate with the many and varied visitors using social media and face to face liaison.

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- To assist with species/habitat management tasks including cutting wildflower meadows and wetland areas, scrub removal and burning and maintenance of new plantings.

- To assist reserve staff with practical maintenance and management duties on the reserve including fencing, hide and screening repair and maintenance of other reserve infrastructure.

- To assist reserve staff in species monitoring tasks including Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS), plant and invertebrate monitoring & moth trapping. Provide SNH with the results of any monitoring carried out on behalf of SNH during the year.

- To encourage compliance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, promote the local access guidance to reserve users and participate in the access monitoring program.

- Engage positively with visitors to the NNR.

- More generally acting as SNH’s ‘eyes and ears’ in or near the NNR by reporting any unusual/noteworthy observations.

- To assist staff as appropriate with the reserve events, education and walks programme.

- Raise the profile of the work of SNH and Scotland’s National Nature Reserves through a variety of social media in accordance with SNH policy.

- To follow SNH’s Health and Safety procedures when carrying out the above tasks. This will include lone working, risk assessment, H&S reporting and other procedures as directed by the Reserve Manager.
The work of a site management officer is wide and varied so the list above is just an indication of what opportunities may be available. If the successful candidate has any particular appropriate areas of interest or expertise which can be utilised and developed during the placement we will endeavour to meet these.

**Learning opportunities SNH can offer you:**

- Training in the mandatory core skills required by SNH from all staff including; H&S personal responsibilities, Equality and Diversity, Display Screen Equipment, Information Security, Equality and Diversity.
- Attendance on the SNH working with the public outdoors training course. Certificated Health & Safety Executive approved first aid at work training (appropriate to outdoor situations).
- Accredited essential skills training for using specific equipment or undertaking a specific type of management task relevant to the work being undertaken on the reserve will be available. For the Loch Leven NNR placement this is, LANTRA brush cutter & strimmer with additional clearing saw training and LANTRA all-terrain vehicle ATV.
- With placement manager approval the candidate may also be able to attend SNH training events; through the ‘Sharing Good Practice’ program and other in house opportunities as they arise.
- There will be varied opportunities to experience numerous different SNH managed NNR's during the course of the placement.

The following informal learning opportunities;

- To gain experience from reserve staff and learn the skills of reserve management & maintenance including use of machinery, survey equipment and essential hand & power tools.
- To gain experience and skills in species identification and monitoring from reserve staff.
- To gain experience in risk assessment, event organisation and media and PR work during your placement.
- To develop people and communication skills through visitor liaison and access monitoring.
- During the placement you will learn more about the work of SNH and others in the natural heritage and conservation sector.
- To develop your own learning log during the placement

For further details on this placement contact Neil.Mitchell@snh.gov.uk Tel. 01577 864439. [http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/loch-leven/](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/loch-leven/)
Fife NNRs SRUC Student Placement Description

NNR(s): Tentsmuir and Isle of May NNR
Office location: Fetterdale Office

Accommodation available: No
Full driving licence required: Yes

The majority of time will be spent on the Tentsmuir NNR and based at the Fetterdale office. Tentsmuir NNR consists of three wonderful sites: from the dynamic coast of Tentsmuir Point where changes to the dunes and foreshore can be observed in nearly every minute of the day through to the relic dunes & slacks made over a few millennia ago that make up Morton Lochs. Morton Lochs as the name implies consists of three lochs, wetlands, dune heath, willow carr and home to water birds, amphibians, dragonflies & damselflies and the elusive otter and many other wonderful flora & fauna. Tayport Heath is the third component and this dune heath lies adjacent to the River Tay, the largest river system in terms of sediment load – the building blocks of the area.

There will also be the opportunity to work on the remote Isle of May for extended periods (including overnight stays). The rocky seabird colony of the Isle of May is often referred to as the jewel of the Forth. While on the Isle of May NNR accommodation will be available for overnight stays.

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- To assist with species/habitat management tasks including tree & scrub removal, new planting, removal of invasive species and aquatic plant management.
- To assist reserve staff with practical maintenance and management duties on the reserve including fencing, path work, repair and maintenance of other reserve infrastructure. Daily patrols of the bird hides and squirrel hide and topping up the squirrel feeders.
- To assist reserve staff in species monitoring tasks including Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS), plant and invertebrate monitoring. Provide SNH with the results of any monitoring carried out on behalf of SNH during the year.
- To encourage compliance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and be involved in monitoring visitor behaviour.
- Engage positively with visitors to the NNR.
- More generally, acting as SNH’s ‘eyes and ears’ on or near the NNR by reporting any unusual/noteworthy observations.
- To assist staff as appropriate with the Reserve events, education and walks programme.
- Raise the profile of the work of SNH and Scotland’s National Nature Reserves through a variety of social media in accordance with SNH policy.
- Liaise with the Reserve volunteers, leading or assisting with the management tasks and working on projects and in the research of the Reserve flora & fauna.
- Follow SNH’s Health and Safety procedures when carrying out the above tasks. This will include lone working, risk assessment, H&S reporting and other procedures as directed by the Reserve Manager.

The work of a site management officer is wide and varied so the list above is just an indication of what opportunities may be available. If the successful candidate has any particular appropriate areas of interest or expertise which can be utilised and developed during the placement we will endeavour to optimise these.
Learning opportunities SNH offer you:

- Training in the mandatory core skills required by SNH from all staff including; H&S personal responsibilities, equality and diversity, Display Screen Equipment & Information Security.
- Attendance on the SNH working with the public outdoors training course. Certificated Health & Safety Executive approved first aid at work training (appropriate to outdoor situations).
- Accredited essential skills training for using specific equipment or undertaking a specific type of management task relevant to the work being undertaken on the reserve will be available. For the Fife NNRs placement this LANTRA brush cutter & strimmer, LANTRA all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and Marine Medic.
- With placement manager approval the candidate may also be able to attend SNH training events; through the ‘Sharing Good Practice’ program and other in house opportunities as they arise.
- There will be varied opportunities to experience numerous different SNH managed NNR’s during the course of the placement.

The following informal learning opportunities;

- To gain experience from reserve staff and learn the skills of reserve management & maintenance including use of machinery, survey equipment and essential hand & power tools.
- To gain experience and skills in species identification and monitoring from reserve staff.
- To gain experience in risk assessment, event organisation and media & PR work during your placement. Especially with weekly articles on the Facebook Scotland’s National Nature Reserve page and contributions to a blog and the Reserve Newsletters.
- To develop people and communication skills through visitor liaison and access monitoring.
- During the placement you will learn more about the work of SNH and others in the natural heritage and conservation sector.

For further details on this placement contact tom.cunningham@snh.gov.uk Tel. 01382 553704. http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/tentsmuir/
Dumfries NNRs SRUC Student Placement Description

NNR(s): Caerlaverock, Cairnsmore of Fleet, and Kirkconnell Flow NNR’s
Office location: Dumfries

Accommodation available: No
Full driving licence required: Yes

The majority of time will be spent working from the Dumfries office on Southern Scotland NNRs. Caerlaverock NNR is an ever changing place sited along the northern coast of the Solway Firth. The reserve is located within the Nith Estuary National Scenic Area (NSA). There, nature provides a winter feast for birds like barnacle geese and other wintering birds while summer is a buzzing time for a whole assemblage of plants and invertebrates. Caerlaverock NNR is a unique place where people can enjoy bird watching as much as wildfowling for which SNH run a permit scheme. Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR is one of the wildest places found in Southern Scotland. This impressive granite hill stands proud above the Fleet Valley NSA. Located at the heart of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, the reserve is a must go destination for people who want to meet nature and understand what it has to offer. Located just south from Dumfries, Kirkconnell Flow is a discrete lowland raised bog owned and managed by SNH. Pioneer trees species that make all terrestrial habitats evolve towards mature woodlands are kept at bay to help retain this habitat of international importance.

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- To help organise Caerlaverock and Cairnsmore of Fleet Monitoring Plans by clearly defining protocols and organising the data base.

- To assist reserve staff in species monitoring tasks including Deer & Goat counts, black grouse counts, Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS), plants and invertebrates monitoring & moth trapping. Provide SNH with the results of any monitoring carried out on behalf of SNH during the year.

- To assist with species/habitat management tasks including scrub removal on Kirkconnell Flow.

- To assist reserve staff with practical maintenance and management duties on the reserve including fencing, hide and boardwalk repair and maintenance of other reserve infrastructure.

- To assist staff as appropriate with the reserve events and walks programme.

- To assist with the monitoring of the activities that take place on Cearlaverock NNR (i.e. wildfowling, Punt-gunning, fishing). More generally, acting SNH’s ‘eyes and ears’ in or near the NNR by reporting any unusual/noteworthy observations.

- To encourage compliance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

- Engage positively with visitors to the NNRs.
• Raise the profile of the work of SNH and Scotland’s National Nature Reserves through a variety of social media in accordance with SNH policy.

• To follow SNH’s Health and Safety procedures when carrying out the above tasks. This will include lone working, risk assessment, H&S reporting and other procedures as directed by the Reserve Manager.

The work of a site management officer is wide and varied so the list above is just an indication of what opportunities may be available. If the successful candidate has any particular appropriate areas of interest or expertise which can be utilised and developed during the placement we will endeavour to optimise these.

Learning opportunities SNH offer you:

• Training in the mandatory core skills required by SNH from all staff including; H&S personal responsibilities, equality and diversity, Display Screen Equipment & Information Security.
• Attendance on the SNH working with the public outdoors training course. Certificated Health & Safety Executive approved first aid at work training (appropriate to outdoor situations).
• Accredited essential skills training for using specific equipment or undertaking a specific type of management task relevant to the work being undertaken on the reserve will be available. For the Dumfries NNRs placement this LANTRA brush cutter & strimmer and LANTRA all-terrain vehicle (ATV).
• With placement manager approval the candidate may also be able to attend SNH training events; through the ‘Sharing Good Practice’ program and other in house opportunities as they arise.
• There will be varied opportunities to experience numerous different SNH managed NNR's during the course of the placement.

The following informal learning opportunities;

• To gain experience from reserve staff and learn the skills of reserve management & maintenance including use of machinery, survey equipment and essential hand & power tools.
• To gain experience and skills in species identification and monitoring from reserve staff.
• To gain experience in risk assessment, event organisation and media & PR work during your placement.
• To develop people and communication skills through visitor liaison and access monitoring.
• During the placement you will learn more about the work of SNH and others in the natural heritage and conservation sector.

For further details on this placement contact francois.chazel@snh.gov.uk Tel. 03000 673 202. http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/
Stirling NNRs Student Placement Description

NNR(s): Flanders Moss, Blawhorn Moss & Loch Lomond NNR’s
No. of placements: 1
Location: Stirling
Accommodation available: No
Full driving licence required: Yes

The majority of time will be spent working from the Stirling office on 3 stunning sites, Flanders Moss, Blawhorn Moss & Loch Lomond NNR’s. These 3 central belt NNRs offer a wide range of species and habitats and also the opportunities to develop people sills with the large number of volunteers that we work with and public that visit the reserves. Flanders is probably the biggest and best raised bog in Scotland and is home to a wide range of very specialist wildlife and offers the visitor a real wilderness landscape in the centre of Scotland. Blawhorn Moss is a smaller bog but being closer to Edinburgh offers great potential to make people connections. Loch Lomond NNR is managed in partnership with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and RSPB and the wetlands that we manage are home to probably the greatest range of biodiversity of any NNR while the islands are just strikingly beautiful.

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- To assist with species/habitat management tasks including removing invasive non-natives on wetlands sites, scrub removal on the bog sites and installation of dams.

- To assist reserve staff with practical maintenance and management duties on the reserve including path maintenance and repair of other reserve infrastructure such as signs, stiles, and bridges.

- To assist reserve staff in species monitoring tasks including Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS), hen harrier roost counts, goose roost counts, plant and invertebrate monitoring, and moth trapping. Provide SNH with the results of any monitoring carried out on behalf of SNH during the year.

- More generally, acting SNH’s ‘eyes and ears’ in or near the NNR by reporting any unusual/noteworthy observations.

- To assist with, plan and eventually lead volunteer work parties delivering habitat management across all of the Stirling NNRs.

- Engage positively with visitors to the NNRs.

- To assist staff as appropriate with the reserve events, education and walks programme, and, if required, plan and lead reserve talks/events.

- Raise the profile of the work of SNH and Scotland’s National Nature Reserves through a variety of social media in accordance with SNH policy.
To follow SNH’s Health and Safety procedures when carrying out the above tasks. This will include lone working, risk assessment, H&S reporting and other procedures as directed by the Reserve Manager.

The work of a site management officer is wide and varied so the list above is just an indication of what opportunities may be available. If the successful candidate has any particular appropriate areas of interest or expertise which can be utilised and developed during the placement we will endeavour to optimise these.

Learning opportunities SNH offer you:

- Training in the mandatory core skills required by SNH from all staff including; H&S personal responsibilities, equality and diversity, Display Screen Equipment & Information Security.
- Attendance on the SNH working with the public outdoors training course. Certificated Health & Safety Executive approved first aid at work training (appropriate to outdoor situations).
- Accredited essential skills training for using specific equipment or undertaking a specific type of management task relevant to the work being undertaken on the reserve will be available. For the Stirling NNrs placement this LANTRA brush cutter & strimmer with additional clearing saw training.
- With placement manager approval the candidate may also be able to attend SNH training events; through the ‘Sharing Good Practice’ program and other in house opportunities as they arise.
- There will be varied opportunities to experience numerous different SNH managed NNR’s during the course of the placement.

The following informal learning opportunities;

- To gain experience from reserve staff and learn the skills of reserve management & maintenance including use of machinery, survey equipment and essential hand & power tools.
- To gain experience and skills in species identification and monitoring from reserve staff.
- To gain experience in risk assessment, event organisation and media & PR work during your placement.
- To develop people and communication skills through visitor liaison and access monitoring.
- During the placement you will learn more about the work of SNH and others in the natural heritage and conservation sector.

For further details on this placement contact David Pickett Tel: 01786 435362, Email: David.Pickett@snh.gov.uk  http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/flanders-moss/
Grampian NNRs SRUC Student Placement Description

NNR(s): Forvie / Dinnet & St Cyrus NNR’s
Office location: One each at St Cyrus and Aberdeen offices (or both based at Aberdeen would also be considered)
No. of placements: 2
Accommodation available: No
Full driving licence required: Yes (in exceptional circumstances a non-driver would be considered for St Cyrus but very strong preference will be given to candidates with a full driving licence.)

Based at the SNH office in Aberdeen (or at St Cyrus or Muir of Dinnet) the majority of time will be spent at one of the three National Nature Reserves in Aberdeenshire: Forvie, Muir of Dinnet and St Cyrus.

St Cyrus NNR offers a rich variety of learning experiences from habitat and species based work to developing people skills. It is a diverse coastal reserve with stunning botanical, invertebrate and bird interest. St Cyrus NNR is closely linked to the community and as such we work closely with them to offer an interesting and innovative events program and training courses. We proactively engage in outreach work, education and working with schools and school groups is high on the agenda.

Muir of Dinnet NNR offers a variety of learning experiences from habitat and species based work to developing people skills. It is an extremely diverse reserve, with habitats including from lowland heath, fens, bogs, lochs, deciduous and pine woodland. The summer months offer a great opportunity to develop your people skills, through day-to-day contact with visitors, site management and assisting with and running a variety of events and school groups. The winter months offer more of an opportunity to develop habitat management skills, with ditch damming and heather burning being on the agenda to manage the SAC features of the site.

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- To assist with species/habitat management tasks including cutting wildflower meadows and wetland areas, scrub removal and burning and maintenance of new plantings.

- To assist reserve staff with practical maintenance and management duties on the reserve including path maintenance, fencing, hide and screening repair and maintenance of other reserve infrastructure.

- To assist reserve staff in species monitoring tasks including Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS), seabird surveys, plant and invertebrate monitoring (including weekly butterfly transects), and moth trapping. Provide SNH and other organisations with the results of any monitoring carried out on behalf of SNH during the year.

- To encourage compliance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

- Engage positively with visitors to the NNRs.

- More generally, to act as SNH’s ‘eyes and ears’ in or near the NNRs by reporting any unusual/noteworthy observations.

- To update and collate the reserves species data and annual report data
• To assist staff as appropriate with the reserve events, education and walks programme, and, if required, plan and lead reserve talks/events.

• Raise the profile of the work of SNH and Scotland’s National Nature Reserves through a variety of social media in accordance with SNH policy.

• To follow SNH’s Health and Safety procedures when carrying out the above tasks. This will include lone working, risk assessment, H&S reporting and other procedures as directed by the Reserve Manager.

The work of a site management officer is wide and varied so the list above is just an indication of what opportunities may be available. If the successful candidate has any particular appropriate areas of interest or expertise which can be utilised and developed during the placement we will endeavour to optimise these.

Learning opportunities SNH offer you:

• Training in the mandatory core skills required by SNH from all staff including; H&S personal responsibilities, equality and diversity, Display Screen Equipment & Information Security.

• Attendance on the SNH working with the public outdoors training course. Certificated Health & Safety Executive approved first aid at work training (appropriate to outdoor situations).

• Accredited essential skills training for using specific equipment or undertaking a specific type of management task relevant to the work being undertaken on the reserve will be available. For the St Cyrus NNR placement this is LANTRA brush cutter & strimmer, LANTRA all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and Marine Medic. For Muir of Dinnet NNR LANTRA brushcutter & strimmer and 4x4 off-road driving.

• With placement manager approval the candidate may also be able to attend SNH training events; through the ‘Sharing Good Practice’ program and other in house opportunities as they arise.

• There will be varied opportunities to experience numerous different SNH managed NNR’s during the course of the placement.

The following informal learning opportunities;

• To gain experience from reserve staff and learn the skills of reserve management & maintenance including use of machinery, survey equipment and essential hand & power tools.

• To gain experience and skills in species identification and monitoring from reserve staff.

• To gain experience in risk assessment, event organisation and media & PR work during your placement.

• To develop people and communication skills through visitor liaison and access monitoring.

• During the placement you will learn more about the work of SNH and others in the natural heritage and conservation sector.

For further details contact therese.alampo@snh.gov.uk, 01674 830736. http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/st-cyrus/ or catriona.reid@snh.gov.uk 01339 881667. http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/muir-of-dinnet/
South Highland NNRs Student Placement Description

NNR(s): Creag Meagaidh / Beinn Eighe & Loch Maree Islands / Rum NNRs
No. of placements: 3
Location: One each at Creag Meagaidh (Laggan) & Beinn Eighe (Kinlochewe) & Rum (Kinloch)

Accommodation available: Yes
Full driving licence required: No, but very strong preference will be given to candidates with a full driving licence.

Three placements are available; one based on accommodation at each NNR but placements will be expected to work across all three NNRs.

From the wild and windswept mountain plateau to a woodland that's slowly finding its feet again, Creag Meagaidh feels like the Highlands compressed into one nature reserve. Rare mountain plants like woolly willow and highland saxifrage battle against the elements, whilst black grouse flourish in the combination of woodland and open moorland. With Munro summits, an exposed whaleback ridge and ice carved gullies, Creag Meagaidh is the complete mountain experience.

With a cluster of mountain peaks, ancient pinewoods, secretive crossbills and soaring golden eagles, it's no wonder that Beinn Eighe was Britain's first National Nature Reserve. From a distance the pale scree slopes on the mountain-side look like barren fields of snow, but get up close and you'll be amazed by the diversity of wildlife that thrives on this reserve. On Rum, the rugged mountains set a dramatic stage for spectacular wildlife and archaeology. Circling eagles glide on outstretched wings overhead, majestic red deer graze on the hillsides and otters frolic between sea and land. In summer, manx shearwaters veer onto the island at dusk, calling as they go, whilst the brooding mountains and their ancient history overlook it all.

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- To assist with species/habitat management tasks including domestic stock management, deer control, biodiversity crop management, tree planting and protection, removal of invasive non-natives.

- To assist reserve staff with practical maintenance and management duties on the reserve including fencing, path maintenance & repair, maintenance of other reserve infrastructure.

- To assist reserve staff in species monitoring tasks including bird surveys (montane, moorland, riparian, woodland and seabirds), invertebrate monitoring (BCS butterfly transects), moth trapping, botanical survey, tree transects. Provide SNH with the results of any monitoring carried out on behalf of SNH during the year.

- To encourage compliance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, promote the local access guidance to reserve users and participate in the access monitoring program.

- Engage positively with visitors to the NNRs

- More generally to act as SNH's 'eyes and ears' in or near the NNR by reporting any unusual/noteworthy observations.
• To assist staff as appropriate with the reserve events, education and walks programme

• Raise the profile of the work of SNH and Scotland’s National Nature Reserves through a variety of social media in accordance with SNH policy.

• To follow SNH’s Health and Safety procedures when carrying out the above tasks. This will include lone working, risk assessment, H&S reporting and other procedures as directed by the Reserve Manager.

The work of a site management officer is wide and varied so the list above is just an indication of what opportunities may be available. If the successful candidate has any particular appropriate areas of interest or expertise which can be utilised and developed during the placement we will endeavour to optimise these.

Learning opportunities SNH offer you:

• Training in the mandatory core skills required by SNH from all staff including; H&S personal responsibilities, equality and diversity, Display Screen Equipment & Information Security.
• Attendance on the SNH working with the public outdoors training course. Certificated Health & Safety Executive approved first aid at work training (appropriate to outdoor situations).
• Accredited essential skills training for using specific equipment or undertaking a specific type of management task relevant to the work being undertaken on the reserve will be available. For the South Highland NNRs placement this LANTRA brush cutter & strimmer, LANTRA all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and 4x4 off-road driving.
• With placement manager approval the candidate may also be able to attend SNH training events; through the ‘Sharing Good Practice’ program and other in house opportunities as they arise.
• There will be varied opportunities to experience numerous different SNH managed NNR’s during the course of the placement.

The following informal learning opportunities;

• To gain experience from reserve staff and learn the skills of reserve management & maintenance including use of machinery, survey equipment and essential hand & power tools.
• To gain experience and skills in species identification and monitoring from reserve staff.
• To gain experience in risk assessment, event organisation and media & PR work during your placement.
• To develop people and communication skills through visitor liaison and access monitoring.
• During the placement you will learn more about the work of SNH and others in the natural heritage and conservation sector.

For further details on these placements please contact Rory.Richardson@snh.gov.uk, 01528 544265.
http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/creag-meagaidh/
http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/beinn-eighe/
http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/rum/