



Passport to your future

# My Experience



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## Wildlife Conservation

I have always loved being outside and from a very small age would spend my childhood outside in trees and fields or up the woods or on the bike. I left school not having a clue what I wanted to do but knew I loved animals and sport so I did A levels at Barnsley College. I then did sport at University.

I then decided I wanted to pursue a career with animals and got a job working with animals at a new zoo. The first two years were good but in the last two years my attitude about zoos started to change and I didn't feel like I was making a difference to the conservation of animals. I was also standing in walkthrough areas for almost 6 hours a day which was not me. I could also see that this zoo was turning into just a business and I knew if it wasn't making a lot of money that it wouldn't be there at all.

Last year I started getting really interested in British wildlife and as I became more interested I started to see more of it. I would stare at the buzzards flying over head and basically dream about what it would be like to be working for the conservation of British Wildlife and it seemed like a dream that would never come true. I started to volunteer for the Wildlife Trust but because I needed to work full time to pay the

bills the time I could volunteer was very limited and this ended up being about 2-3 times per month.

I knew it would take years and years of volunteering as little as this to even get something close to what I wanted to do. As I volunteered I knew straight away that this is the career I wanted, being outdoors doing practical tasks and working for the conservation of British Wildlife. I wanted a career where I felt I was making a difference to something. I applied for jobs but knew I didn't stand a chance due to lack of knowledge, skills, experience ect but I kept applying anyway. I also knew I didn't have the confidence to attend an interview for any of these jobs as I knew I didn't have the knowledge, skills etc.

When I saw the advert for the PTYF I thought it was perfect and everything I was looking for. I also knew I stood a chance as it was open to people who had no skills knowledge or experience, like me. It would allow me to learn all of the skills, gain knowledge and experience and improve my personal skills whilst offering me a wage to learn, which made it possible for me. I found out more about the National Trust leading up to the taster day and interview and felt like it was an organisation that really made a

difference to places for people and wildlife.

Now I have successfully gained a position working as a trainee I feel so lucky to have been given the opportunity to be able to leave my job I was so unhappy in and be learning all about something I am so passionate and enthusiastic about, as well as be working on such a beautiful site.

I have learnt so much already including skills and knowledge but also all about my personal skills which need working on and developing. I am understanding more about the National Trust every day and every day I like it more. I love the history, I love how it works for British Wildlife and also how it works really hard to get more people, especially kids to spend more time outdoors.

I am so thankful for the opportunity I have been given and I really believe this year will change my life.

By Emma Carter