ESSEX ABROAD

VOLUNTEER WITH *Wildlife Sense*

**What:** Volunteering abroad

**Where:** Kefalonia Greece

**When:** June or September 2018

**Cost:** £690 - £940
Wildlife Sense

Wildlife Sense is a sea turtle research & conservation organization based on the beautiful island of Kefalonia, Greece. Its mission is to protect endangered sea turtles and their natural habitats, offer a unique learning experience to the volunteers who join its efforts, and promote public awareness.

Every year, sea turtles migrate to Kefalonia to forage and reproduce. Female turtles lay their eggs on the sandy beaches of the island. They make significant efforts to find the most suitable locations for their nests, but human and natural threats damage and destroy many eggs. The turtles themselves are regularly injured or killed by accidental boat strikes, entrapment in fishing gear, or after swallowing plastics. These threats push the sea turtles of Kefalonia closer to the brink of extinction.

You will be based in the Argostoli station which is located only 10 minutes from the airport. Argostoli is the capital town of Kefalonia, situated on the south-west coast of the island. The town's harbour borders the bay of Argostoli, which is naturally protected from the open sea by the Argostoli and Paliki peninsulas. The shallower end of the bay blends into the Koutavos Lagoon, where the warm waters become home to a number of sea turtles during the summer season, with a few turtles also spending the winter there.

Website: [https://wildlifesense.com](https://wildlifesense.com)

Volunteer role

As part of the team, the volunteers will survey the beaches of Kefalonia to find and protect sea turtle nests. Our survey teams cycle to the beaches in the early morning, walk along the golden sand looking for fresh turtle nests, then then mark, measure, and protect all nests that were laid during the previous night. The primary goal is to protect sea turtle nests against accidental damage and monitor their progress throughout incubation to the hatching stage. As the young turtles hatch, we do our best to protect them from light pollution and assure they can safely crawl to the sea.

After all healthy hatchlings have left the nests, you will conduct nest inventories to assess the fate of every egg and the hatching success of each nest. This helps us continuously improve our conservation methods and maximize the reproductive success of Kefalonia's sea turtle population.

Light pollution and storms are the two primary threats to sea turtle nests in Kefalonia. An important part of your field work will comprise of environmental studies to quantify light pollution and determine its source, and measuring the continuous changes of the nesting beaches and the distance of the water from nests. With this data, our team will be able to assess the risk to each nest and take timely actions to prevent any harm.

Eligibility criteria

- 18 years of age or older
- Minimum stay of two weeks
- Comfortable riding a bicycle on hilly terrain
- Able to walk/bike during a hot day
- Interested in conservation, wildlife and environment
### Dates and schedule

#### Session 1 (June 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd October 17</td>
<td>Applications are open – apply online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Info and crowdfunding session. Exact date to be confirmed – please contact <a href="mailto:stp@essex.ac.uk">stp@essex.ac.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17 – March 18</td>
<td>Crowdfunding with CLICK (optional).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th March 18</td>
<td>Info and crowdfunding session. Exact date to be confirmed – please contact <a href="mailto:stp@essex.ac.uk">stp@essex.ac.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st March 18</td>
<td>Deadline to apply, full payment due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Pre-departure session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th June 18</td>
<td>Departure to Kefalonia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th June 18</td>
<td>Arrival, airport pick up, orientation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th June – 1st July 18</td>
<td>Volunteering activities, excursions, day off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st July 18</td>
<td>Departure and arrival back to UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Debrief and reunion.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Session 2 (September 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd October 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Info and crowdfunding session. Exact date to be confirmed – please contact <a href="mailto:stp@essex.ac.uk">stp@essex.ac.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17 – April 18</td>
<td>Crowdfunding with CLICK (optional).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th March 18</td>
<td>Info and crowdfunding session. Exact date to be confirmed – please contact <a href="mailto:stp@essex.ac.uk">stp@essex.ac.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th April 18</td>
<td>Deadline to apply, full payment due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Pre-departure session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th September 18</td>
<td>Departure to Kefalonia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th September 18</td>
<td>Arrival, airport pick up, orientation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th September - 23rd September 18</td>
<td>Volunteering activities, excursions, day off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd September 18</td>
<td>Departure and arrival back to UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Debrief and reunion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*N.B. Please note that the dates are subject to change.*
Cost

Cost for the volunteering activity – to be paid to Essex Abroad

| Programme fee including 2 week long volunteering programme, full training, social programme, accommodation | £410 |

What is included:
- 2 week long volunteering experience with sea turtles
- Full training and ongoing supervision
- Accommodation in apartments shared with the rest of the team
- Researcher t-shirt

You will still have to pay for:
- Flights – estimated to be between £150 - £350 for direct return flight from Stansted to Kefalonia
- Food costs - (you can opt in for a shared vegetarian food kitty at 30 Euros per week which is paid on arrival, you cook your own meals)
- Personal expenses – approximately £100 - £150
- Vaccinations – visit your GP at least 4 months before planned travel date (usually free)
- Visa fee – most nationalities including UK and EU countries do not need a Visa to Greece

Other costs related to the programme

| Flights | £150 - £350 |
| Food costs (optional food kitty) | £30 |
| Personal expenses | £100 - £150 |

Overall cost

| Overall cost for taking part in the programme | £690 - £940 |

N.B. Please note that the prices are subject to change (e.g. exchange rate fluctuations, cost of flights).

Fun(d)raising

You may wish to fundraise to help with the cost of the programme fee, flights and other expenses.

The best bit? Alumni of the University of Essex will matchfund your fundraising efforts for every £1 raised The University of Essex will give you £1 (certain criteria apply).

How to fundraise or crowdfund via Click:
1. Go to Click – click.hubbub.net
2. Contact click@essex.ac.uk for any questions.
3. You will have 5 weeks to fundraise and meet your minimum target.

Check Essex Abroad funding opportunities page to learn about scholarships, grants and bursaries you may be eligible to apply for – CLICK HERE.
Accommodation

You will be staying in a rented apartment, sharing a room with other members of your team. The accommodation includes a shared kitchen, bathroom, and a balcony with a large table for group gatherings and our evening meals. All rooms have a shared bathroom with hot water and kitchenette that is equipped with cookware, utensils, and a shared fridge. The team organizes a weekly food kitty for communal meals. The kitty costs 30 Euros per week, is vegetarian and the participation is not mandatory as it is done solely for the benefit of the volunteers.

Visas

- Not required for UK and most EU students
- Some international students may require Schengen Visa to enter Greece
- Please check if you required a Visa to visit Greece – click HERE for more info

Want more info?

Contact stpabroad@essex.ac.uk | 01206 872208 | Essex Abroad @ Square 2 www.essex.ac.uk/essexabroad

Are you ready to apply?

1. Apply via MoveOn – the Essex Abroad online system – click HERE
2. Provide basic information including your details and short cover letter explaining your motivations to apply.
3. After you apply, we will contact you to for a quick and friendly telephone or face-to-face chat.
4. Deadline to apply and for full payment is due on 31/3/2018 for the June session and 30/4/18 for the September session. Please apply as soon as possible as we may close the applications earlier once we recruit sufficient amount of students.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Can I take part?

Are you interested in conservation, sea turtle protection and research and volunteering in Greece? Have you got good levels of fitness (you will be cycling to beaches, patrolling them on foot and observing turtles in harbour)? Are you free during in June or September 2018? Are you a current University of Essex student?

Yes – then you are in! Register HERE and we will be in touch.

2. I want to go but I am not sure?

Come to Essex Abroad office and find out more about the programme.

What is the deadline to apply and to pay?

The deadline to apply and for full payment is due on 31/3/2018 for the June session and 30/4/18 for the September session! We encourage all interested students to apply as soon as possible as applications will close once sufficient amount of students are registered.

We will confirm with you what the exact amount is you have to pay before the deadline. This is because the prices are subject to change due to exchange rate and flight price fluctuations.
3. **Do I have to fundraise to take part?**

   No, you do not! But it is a great way to receive financial support from the University of Essex. Please note that you have to fundraise the minimum amount for the travels to go ahead (you set this amount) – if this is not achieved within 5 weeks – the money goes back to donors.

   More info about fundraising is [HERE](#).

4. **What will I learn?**

   You will get an interesting, exciting and valuable experience. You will help to collect vital data to make key management decisions. You will develop skills in conservation, dealing with sea turtles and working with like-minded people. You will also build your resilience, experience different culture, give something back, make friends for life, get practical experience and challenge yourself!

   Have a look at the Wildlife Sense website for more info – click [HERE](#).

5. **The price for the project looks expensive!**

   The programme fee is £410 and includes accommodation, airport pick up and drop off in Greece, social programme, supervision, orientation, full training. You will also support the Wildlife Sense conservation and research work.

   The overall cost for taking part in the programme is estimated to be between £690 and £940.

   Do not forget you can use [CLICK](#) to help with the cost of the programme!

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**Terms and Conditions**

1. The Essex Abroad volunteering activities abroad are co-ordinated by the University of Essex and are only available for current enrolled University of Essex students.

2. Essex Abroad works with carefully selected organisations that offer appropriate, safe, ethical and relevant volunteering opportunities.

3. All students taking part in Essex Abroad organised volunteering activities abroad must abide by the [University of Essex code of conduct](#). Students will also need to follow specific code of conduct that the host organisation(s) has in place. This will be provided at the time of arrival to the location.

4. Overseas volunteering programmes may have only a limited number of places available and students are selected based on the mixture of the following criteria: Academic programme, motivations for taking part, level of studies, suitability for the programme and interview.

5. Each student must register on the Essex Abroad application database and provide the required information, with may include personal details, medical and next of kin info, CV, contact details and other details.

6. To ensure that the Essex Abroad volunteering activities abroad run smoothly, we need to use information that you provided us with, such as your name and address, special needs etc. We ensure that appropriate security measures are taken to protect this data. However, this data must be passed to suppliers of the travel arrangements, including transport companies and accommodation providers. We may also supply your details to public authorities such as customs and immigration. When you register on Essex Abroad database for an international activity abroad, you consent to this information being passed to relevant parties.

7. All British Citizens require a Passport to travel outside of the UK. International Passport holders must ensure their Passport allows them to travel to the chosen country and be in possession of...
the relevant travel documents or visa required if applicable. Most Countries require your Passport to remain valid for a minimum period after your return date to the UK, this is normally 6 months. It is your own responsibility to ensure you have a valid Passport and visa (if required). We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements.

8. Insurance:

- You may be covered by the University of Essex travel insurance policy. If this is the case then you will be provided a copy at least 2 months before the departure.
- We also recommend buying private travel and health insurance.

9. Overnight Accommodation:

- You may be accommodated in variety of types of accommodation and these may be of different sizes and layouts.
- Rooming allocations will be based on maximum occupancy of each apartment as defined by the supplier in the rooming plan.
- You will be sharing rooms with others and whenever possible we will endeavour to provide separate rooms for female and male students.
- You accept full responsibility for any damages or loss caused by you. All local laws, including those relating to the consumption of alcohol and noise, must be obeyed at all times.

10. In the case of any dispute, the Head of International Collaborations and Mobility, Ivan Hutchins, will investigate the issues involved and the resulting decision will be provided within 14 days of the receipt of your e-mail. All complaints must be made to Ivan Hutchins, please e-mail: essexabroad@essex.ac.uk. Should you be not happy with the outcome of your complaint, you can appeal using the University of Essex complaint procedures.

11. Essex Abroad cannot take any responsibility for any student who does not adhere to these terms and conditions.

12. Essex Abroad reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions, if deemed necessary.

13. You will need to pay for the programme fee in full before a specified deadline. This deadline is clearly visible in the project sheet and also available upon request from Essex Abroad. Failure to pay before the deadline will result in withdrawal from the volunteering programme.

14. The Essex Abroad volunteering activities abroad will only take place if sufficient number of students apply and pay for the programme fee in full. Essex Abroad reserves the right to cancel the activity should insufficient number of students sign up. When this unlikely event happens, you are entitled to a full refund of the fees you already paid.

15. In order to guarantee your place on the programme, you will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of £100 and a full payment before specified deadline(s).

16. We understand that in some circumstances you may not be able to take part in the Essex Abroad volunteering activity abroad once you paid for the programme fee in full. If this is the case, we will investigate your situation and will endeavour to provide you with a refund. You will need to notify us at least 2 months before the planned start of the Essex Abroad volunteering activity abroad. Please note that it may not be possible to offer you a full refund as certain items such as deposits etc. may not be refundable.
Photos from Wildlife Sense