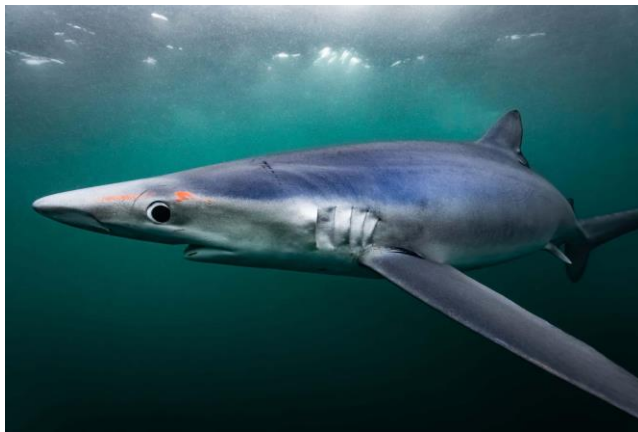




Swansea University Year in Industry Placements

Celtic Deep would like to offer **three** Swansea University students the opportunity to undertake their year in industry placements with us.



Photographer: Liam Webb©

NAME OF RESEARCH GROUP: Celtic Deep Conservation CIC

DATE OF PLACEMENT (minimum 40 weeks): July 2025 - June 2026 (with winter break in December and January)

LOCATION: Pembrokeshire, Wales

This year we are delighted to share that we will be taking on three students for their year in industry placement. We are three different positions you can apply for, each with slightly different aims and responsibilities, but all students will still take part in research activities and trips.

You need to apply for the specific position(s) that you are interested in undertaking.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- Outreach
- Citizen Science
- Science Communication

Please find more details about these roles in the table further down.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- You will need to send an up-to-date **CV** and **cover letter** (max 1 side for single role application, max 2 sides for multiple role application) with subject heading '*students name*_Swansea University Placement' to emma@celticdeep.org
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS November 15th 2024.
- We will let you know if you have been **shortlisted for an interview by November 20th 2024**. This is an informal interview with Emma and Rich which will provide both students and the Celtic Deep team with an opportunity to ask any questions, and to discuss any interests, previous experience, and goals for the placement year. We hope to conduct **interviews in late November**.
- We will aim to let you know whether you have been **successful** in securing a place by **late November/early December** depending on when the last interviews are carried out.

OVERVIEW OF PLACEMENT:

There are two branches to our organisation. The first to be formed was Celtic Deep Ltd., which is a recreational tour operator run by conservationists and researchers. This involves all the guest trips. Celtic Deep Conservation CIC is a non-profit community interest company that was formed two years ago. The CIC covers outreach, conservation, and research activities. These companies run alongside each other, and students will be involved with activities from both.

This placement will provide a great opportunity for students to get hands-on experience, spend time in and on the water interacting with and surveying a range of marine life including seabirds, marine mammals, and sharks. This placement is well suited to enthusiastic, hardworking students with strong in-water abilities who are able to work as both part of a team and independently. Due to the nature of working on the ocean, particularly in the UK, demonstrating flexibility to changing activities and workload is essential. The successful applicants will become

part of a small, friendly team who are keen to listen to ideas, help develop experience and knowledge in areas of interest as well as exposing you to new ones.

Celtic Deep offers three main activities; snorkelling for beginners from the beach, island trips to Lundy to swim with the friendliest seals in the UK and Skomer island to swim with the puffins and other sea birds. Lastly, our flagship and original trip. The Full Day in the Celtic Deep trip which takes you 30 miles offshore to an area called the Celtic Deep to look for and swim with blue sharks. We have recently added Freediving courses to our activities and run a vibrant community freediving club called Pembrokeshire Freedivers.

Many of our activities are highly seasonal due to the wildlife and conditions. Puffin trips are May-July, sharks July-October, seals can span this time and explore snorkelling is focused around the school holidays.

CELTIC DEEP TRIP DETAILS

Our new explore snorkelling has been a tremendous success and truly rewarding for customers and staff. It is suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities/experience making it more inclusive. It also creates opportunities as a snorkelling instructor to guide people in their first steps to exploring the underwater world around our coast. The shore-based explore snorkelling isn't restricted by boat space and they are a popular summer activity so you will have plenty of chances to be involved with these.

The trips around the Pembrokeshire Islands (Skomer and Skokholm), are famous for their seabird colonies including puffins, razorbills and guillemots. As well as the birds there is an explosion of life to be seen below the surface. From playful grey seals that follow you around tugging on your fins to spider crabs that aggregate in their thousands to shed. The habitats are also varied. From rocky shores to seagrass beds and kelp forests support an abundance of life.

Trips to the Celtic Deep. The highlight of these trips is to find and snorkel with blue sharks. However, they also offer the chance to see a huge array of marine megafauna and seabirds including; common, bottlenose and Risso's dolphins, porpoise, minke and fin whales, mola mola, gannets, storm petrels, Manx shearwaters, and anything else that might be passing by. However, these trips require some endurance. We leave the harbour early, travelling ~30miles offshore to the Celtic Deep, where we switch off the engines, chum the water and wait to see if any blue sharks will show up. Snorkelling with blue sharks is a truly amazing experience, they are majestic and inquisitive animals that are stunning to see up close in their natural habitat. These trips frequently last >10hrs offering a great opportunity for research and marine megafauna records.

These trips require individuals to be able to maintain professionalism and participation during long days at sea, including staying engaged with the guests, guiding and assisting with data collection even when you are tired and cold. We will always do our best to support all team members but everyone has a role to play. It is also important to address the issue of sea

sickness as this can make fulfilling your role challenging to say the least. Even those with the sturdiest of sea legs can find they get a tad queasy when drifting out at sea for 5hrs waiting for sharks, so having the stomach for it is crucial. Suffering from seasickness is not a problem as long as you have tablets that work for you and don't make you drowsy. If you know you suffer from sea sickness that isn't helped by tablets and still want to apply just let us know in your application and we can keep you out of the rotation for the longer boat trips.

CELTIC DEEP CONSERVATION CIC

The non-profit arm of Celtic Deep is growing each year. We have built good relationships with other local organisations and providers, allowing us to not just run our own programs but collaborate on several projects too. As not many of our CIC activities have made it onto our social media/website I have listed below some examples of the things we have been up to.

OUTREACH:

- Watersports inclusivity day
- Partnering with Project Seagrass
- Talks to schools and other community groups including action for children
- Family Beach days
- Collaborations with the Shark Trust
- Talks and stalls at festivals
- Freediving focused wellbeing program
- Outdoor & Environment training program
- Sharkademy – only UK shark residency for shark research
- Pembrokeshire Freediving club
- Rock pooling and snorkelling activities

CONSERVATION:

- Collect data on marine megafauna sightings
- Invited to be members of the Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Committee
- Citizen science projects e.g. Marine Conservation Society beach cleans & Shark Trust eggcase hunts
- iNaturalist account to share and document our sightings (new)
- taking part in project SWEPT – water quality monitoring (new)

RESEARCH

- Blue shark tagging project
- Blue shark ID project (new)
- Catshark ID project (new)
- Coastal benthic BRUVS
- Pelagic BRUVS looking at magnetic deterrents to reduce bycatch (part of a PhD project)

POSITION	OUTREACH	CITIZEN SCIENCE	SCIENCE COMMUNICATION
WHY?	It is said that people will only act to conserve things they know and care about. Outreach talks and activities are great ways of sharing our knowledge and love for the marine environment with others, helping build a community of ocean advocates.	Citizen science projects are a fantastic way to collect lots of data with small budgets and limited time available. They are also a fantastic way of engaging and involving the general public in science. We contribute to several longstanding projects.	Science communication is vital to disseminate information and findings to the general public and engage the community. Jobs in science communication, marketing and media are often advertised in the field of marine conservation.
OUTLINE	Oversee all outreach activities including planning, delivering, creating resources and reflecting on events/activities/sessions.	Oversee all citizen science projects including ensuring all necessary resources are prepped for activities and report data to relevant organisations.	Oversee all media and communication aspects across the board including trips, outreach activities, citizen science projects and research
INCLUDES	<p>Coordinate volunteer & work experience activities.</p> <p>Organise talks & create presentations for schools, local groups etc.</p> <p>Organise & prepare community outreach and engagement events.</p> <p>Organise logistics for clubs</p> <p>Create activity resources for outreach activities.</p> <p>Consider EDI strategies for engagement (equity, diversity and inclusion).</p> <p>Compile monthly outreach updates for the website & social media.</p>	<p>Responsible for collecting & reporting data to Marine Conservation Society beach clean surveys.</p> <p>Responsible for collecting & reporting data to Shark Trust on Eggcase hunts.</p> <p>Lead BRUVS surveys (baited remote underwater video system) during outreach activities.</p> <p>Input marine megafauna sightings data from trips if no student is on the trip.</p> <p>Compile relevant data for other organisations.</p> <p>Monthly citizen science updates for the website & social media.</p>	<p>Advertising outreach & citizen science activities on social media and other platforms.</p> <p>Attend events as photographer/videographer.</p> <p>Create posts and share them on social media platforms.</p> <p>Help maintain website and ensure conservation stories and updates are being told.</p> <p>Help run conservation campaigns.</p> <p>Compile monthly updates and share them on the website and social media platforms.</p>
ALL	<p>Record and input marine megafauna sightings data from trip if that was your designated role that day.</p> <p>Help run the year in industry BRUVS survey project (baited remote underwater video system).</p> <p>Assist Celtic Deep trips and activities e.g. Skomer Island, offshore to see the blue sharks, shore snorkels.</p> <p>Assist with Celtic Deep research projects and external projects that we may be facilitating.</p> <p>Work on data analysis and end of season reports.</p> <p>Assist with administrative tasks e.g. risk assessments.</p> <p>Kit packing, washing and general care.</p> <p>Anything else that may be needed, including assisting colleagues with their role.</p>		

The above table is not an exhaustive list of what the positions will include as things are always evolving and adapting but should provide an indication of the responsibilities of each position. All students will still be involved in research projects and Celtic Deep trips. Students will also be expected to help colleagues with their roles when there are natural differences in workload or if something is urgent. This means that although you have your main role you will still be able to get involved across the board e.g. going into schools to deliver talks. Many activities will also involve cooperation from all roles e.g. community beach clean event will involve all three positions working together to ensure the event runs smoothly, is advertised and the data is shared.

REQUIREMENTS:

Essential:

- Flexible
- Team player
- Able to work independently as well as part of a team
- Good customer service/manor around guests
- Hardworking
- Able to spend long days at sea
- Excellent in-water confidence
- First aid qualification (can be refreshed/completed before starting placement)

Preferable:

- Experience in cold water environments like the UK
- Diving/snorkelling/freediving experience/qualifications
- Advanced/remote first aid qualifications
- Guiding/leadership experience, particularly in-water
- Good knowledge of UK marine life
- Driving license and vehicle

INDICATIVE WORK PLAN:

Due to the seasonal nature of our work, the placement has been split into two parts with a long winter break in the middle. The following information is to provide you with an idea of the activities that you might be involved in and time scale. These are all subject to small changes, however, we will do our best to make your experience as hands on and varied as possible. The exact number of weeks in each section is also subject to change but a minimum of 40 weeks must be fulfilled.

July-November 2025, February-June 2026:

- Fulfil the roles of your position
- Assist with research undertaken as part of the Celtic Deep trips

- Assist with activity operations (guiding, kit handling, engaging with guests etc.)
- Receive varied training from staff
- Assist with data entry
- Develop presentation skills through giving boat briefings and presentations
- Assist/lead in report writing
- Develop UK species identification skills
- Help to develop and write project proposals for future projects
- Help to develop outreach programs
- Chance to carry out your own study if it aligns with Celtic Deep activities and ethos

December-January 2025-26:

- Winter break

INCLUDED:

- SSI Snorkel instructor qualification
- Oxygen administrator training
- Celtic Deep-specific training
- SSI Level 1 Freediver qualification (need to pay digital materials fee approx. £30 but RRR price for whole course is >£300)
- Celtic Deep activities
- Celtic Deep t-shirt

EXCLUDED:

- Accommodation (we have a house students can rent a room in)
- Living costs, food etc.
- Transport (having a car is preferable, the internship does involve local driving)
- Additional qualifications e.g. powerboat license that students may want to undertake in their free time
- Snorkelling equipment (freediving wetsuit, mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt, weights, socks and glove. We can provide guidance and advice for equipment purchases)

Please take a look on our website and social media for further information on Celtic Deep activities and ethos before applying www.celticdeep.org @celticdeep

Any questions please contact Emma (emma@celticdeep.org) or come and chat to us at the science fair on November 6th or come along to the placement talk on November 8th.

Good luck with the rest of the term, we look forward to reading your applications.

