



University of Essex

Eligible for CLICK crowdfunding
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from Essex alumni



ESSEX ABROAD

Volunteering Abroad Wildlife Sense

What: Conservation, environment

Where: Kefalonia, Greece

When: 2 weeks in June or September 2019

How much: £520 - £720

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.

There are 3 sites in Kefalonia where Wildlife Sense operates from: Argostoli, Lixouri and Skala. 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>

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.

Requirements:

- 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
- Willingness to work as a team
- Willing to work hands-on with wildlife
- Keen to learn more about sea turtles and the environment
- Willing to engage with the public when asked questions
- Likes Greek food (optional)

Dates and schedule

- April Session - 16th of June 2019 until 30th of June 2019
- September Session - 22nd of September 2019 until 6th of October 2019

June 2019 dates	September 2019 dates	Activity
11 th of January 2019	11 th of January 2019	Applications are open – apply online
February 2019	March 2019	Virtual info session – exact date to be confirmed
28 th of February 2019	30 th of April 2019	Application close
8 th of March 2019	7 th of May 2019	Deadline to pay your £150 deposit to secure place on the programme
8 th of March 2019	15 th of May 2019	CLICK crowdfunding project starts (optional)
30 th of April 2019	30 th of June 2019	CLICK crowdfunding project finishes (optional)
15 th of May 2019	15 th of July 2019	Full programme fee payment due
May 2019	May 2019	Pre-departure session – exact date to be confirmed
16 th of June 2019	22 nd of September 2019	Departure to Kefalonia, Greece
16 th of June 2019	22 nd of September 2019	Arrival, airport pick up, orientation
17 th of June – 30 th of June 2019	23 rd of September 6 th of October 2019	Volunteering activities
30 th of June 2019	6 th of October 2019	Departure and arrival back to UK
October 2019	October 2019	Debrief and reunion at Essex

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

Cost

Cost breakdown	
Programme fee including social programme and accommodation	£420 (460 Euros)
Flights and transport (you will be responsible for booking your own flight)	£100-300
TOTAL:	£520-720

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

What's included:

- An amazing volunteering hands on experience with sea turtles
- Airport pickup and drop off in Kefalonia, Greece
- Accommodation in apartments shared with the rest of the team
- Researcher t-shirt
- Ongoing training and project operation cost
- Travel insurance (provided by the University)

What's not included:

- Return flight to Kefalonia
- Airport transfer in UK
- Food (students cook their own meals) – you can purchase an optional vegetarian food kitty for the cost of approximately 30 Euros per week.
- Personal expenses – approximately £150
- Vaccinations – visit your GP at least 4 months before planned travel date (usually free)
- Visa fee – most nationalities including UK and EU countries don't need Visa to Greece

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 an optional weekly food kitty (at an approximate cost of 30 Euros per week) for communal meals. The kitty 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

Interested?

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. Deadline to apply for the project is 28th of February 2019 for April session and 30th of April 2019 for September session. You will have to pay a deposit of £150 before 8th of March 2019 (April session) or 7th of May 2019 (September session). Full payment of the programme fee is due on 15th of May 2019 (June session) and 15th July 2019 (September session). Please apply as soon as possible as we may close the applications earlier once we recruit sufficient amount of students.

More info?

Contact Essex Abroad

stp@essex.ac.uk | 01206 87 2198 | Essex Abroad @ Square 2 www.essex.ac.uk/essexabroad

Frequently Asked Questions

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 2019? 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 to chat to Jan to learn more about the project, itinerary and other useful info. We will also run info session where we will Skype the Wildlife Sense project leader to talk to our students. This will take place in February as well as March – exact date and time are to be confirmed and will be available on our [EventBrite page](#). You can also view lots of useful information about the project, Kefalonia and view some cool photos on [our google drive website](#).

3. What is the deadline to apply and to pay?

Deadline to apply for the project is 28th of February 2019 for April session and 30th of April 2019 for September session. You will have to pay a deposit of £150 before 8th of March 2019 (April session) or 7th of May 2019 (September session). Full payment of the programme fee is due on 15th of May 2019 for Session 1 and 15th July 2019 for Session 2. Please apply as soon as possible as we may close the applications earlier once we recruit sufficient amount of students.

4. Do I have to fundraise to take part?

No you don't! But it's a great way to receive financial support from the University of Essex as every pound you fundraise is matchfunded up to certain amount! 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](#).

5. 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](#).

6. The price for the project looks expensive!

The programme fee is £420 and includes accommodation, airport pick up and drop off in Kefalonia, social programme, supervision, orientation and full training. You will also support the Wildlife Sense conservation and research work. And how often do you get to work on such an amazing project with actual sea turtles?

The UK airport transfers and flight to Kefalonia, Greece should cost between £100 - 300.

Don't forget you can get matchfunding contribution if using [CLICK](#)!

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, which 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 are covered by the University of Essex travel insurance policy. You will be provided a copy at least 1 month 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 will be informed about what is included with the accommodation (e.g. breakfast, towel, linen etc.)
 - 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 International Experience Manager 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 Jan Spalek, please e-mail: jan.spalek@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 deposit and programme fee 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 and transport 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 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 and transport 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 flights, minibus bookings, deposits etc. may not be refundable.

Photos from Wildlife Sense



**Volunteer in Greece
with Wildlife Sense
on Kefalonia Island**



- ✓ Gain practical field experience in research and conservation
- ✓ Help protect endangered sea turtles
- ✓ Join our multinational team

Learn more
and apply at
wildlifesense.com

Contact us
✉ wildlifesense.com
✉ kefalonia@wildlifesense.com
also follow us  



