



Young People/schools looking for work experience Opportunities.

(Information updated November 2023)

We will consider work experience opportunities for young people who are currently studying at level 2 or 3 and able to work on their own with minimal guidance and without supervision, and wanting a longer term placement. This may include e.g. Merrist Wood students studying level 2 or 3 Animal Management who need week day placements (please complete form below).

We also offer young people 12+ who are able to work without adult monitoring/supervision weekend and holiday volunteering. We are not able to support this during term time school hours. Younger children and young people may volunteer with their parents/carers or a responsible adult at weekends/during holidays.

We offer occasional holiday volunteering also.

Volunteering involves mucking out, animal care, feeding farm and field care, and cleaning tasks. Due to the nature of this work (both weekends and holidays) and the lack of staff support, this is only for older young people and adults who are able to work independently without adult supervision, and they undertake volunteering placement with the understanding that parents and carers retain full responsibility. All young volunteers wishing to volunteer independently, will need to complete and send their application form themselves and be able to communicate with us independently.

We are not able to accommodate children and young people who are not able to work independently with minimal adult support for volunteering. The staff supporting volunteers are not the same Elysian staff who support our clients/pupils/children and young people who access our services during the week/term time. For young people who wish to do this (weekend/holidays/outside term time), they can complete a volunteers application form, downloaded through the link below and returned to recruit@elysianuk.org. They will then be invited to do a trial shift, demonstrating their level of independence and readiness to undertake the type of volunteering we offer.

We ask you kindly not to email 'for more information about volunteering or work experience' as we struggle to keep up with these vague requests. Please read this information and if you have specific questions, please do email them and we will do our best to answer them.

During the weekend/holiday days, volunteers arrive at 9am promptly (after this time there may no longer be someone near yard/gate/reception as they all go out and about on the farm). Together with other volunteers they go through a 'to do list' and work either on their own or in groups undertaking the tasks. Volunteers either finish at lunch time (12-12.30) or 5pm, as this is when everyone, and the staff, return to the main farm yard. Directions to the Elysian sites are on our website under 'contact find us' and volunteers are collected/taken to the gate on arrival/departure as needed.

FAQ - What is term time?

Answer - Please see our Academic calendar on our Resources page for our term dates.

FAQ - Why can we not take on Work experience during the week/term time/school hours?

Answer - We are a SEMH provision, working with vulnerable young people, and all our staff are invested in supporting them throughout the day. Some of our young people also struggle with new faces, so we try and keep this according to their best interest and reduce this as much as we can. This is why we reduce 'temporary' faces and also 'new' faces as much as possible, as well as not being able to support other young people (who are not part of our learner groups) on site.

Application form can be found on our website, and if you have any questions at all, please email recruit@elysianuk.org