



Is international volunteering right for you? This document will give you a brief outline about volunteering with the **Archelon** in **Greece** next year. Please read this information carefully. Please read this information carefully. You can apply directly My Hub by clicking on the Apply Now button on the website or [click here](#). Application deadline is Sunday 11th November 2018.

Project Information

There is an opportunity for volunteers to work on a turtle conservation project in Greece. Volunteers will be based at a number of sites on Crete to support a range of activities, including nest monitoring and raising public awareness. You will be joining volunteers from other countries, living and working communally on campsites with basic facilities close to beaches.

A staff member of Leeds Beckett, will be your Team Leader. Their role will be to lead the team and help you to fundraise and engage throughout the whole process.

Turtles are an ancient order of reptiles and have remained largely unchanged and unthreatened for hundreds of millions of years, since the time of the dinosaurs – some of the oldest fossils are from a genus of turtles known as Archelon, from which the organisation takes its name. Once hatched, turtles rarely come onto land with only mature females coming back at night during the nesting season to the beaches where they were hatched. They choose the exact sites for their nests through a combination of light currents and gently sloping, sandy beaches. In recent years, fishing, pollution and habitat destruction has seen populations severely reduced and six of the seven species are now listed as endangered (including Loggerhead turtles) or critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.



Since the 1960s tourists have been drawn to Crete by its scenery, climate, ruins, beaches and the warmth of the local people. Extensive coastal construction has seen the development of hotels, bars, water sports and other facilities on the beachfront, major contributing factors to the threats facing turtles. Females of most species will return to the sea without laying eggs if lights or noise on the beach disturbs them. Unprotected nests can be damaged by beach activities, and hatchlings emerging at night can become disorientated by the bright lights of hotels, bars and coastal roads.

Once the importance of the nesting populations on Crete was realised, Archelon have been working with the local people who are fiercely proud of the presence of turtles on their island, and tourists to highlight the threats to Loggerhead turtles and, more importantly, what can be done to address the issues. By matching volunteers' nationalities to those of the tourist profile on Crete, the organisation is able to effectively promote a greater understanding of how tourists can help.

Accommodation

Volunteers will camp with fellow volunteers. Archelon is keen for all its volunteers to mix well, so for that reason our Leeds Beckett volunteers will be split into smaller groups and located at different campsites in different parts of the island.

Life at the campsites is relaxed and friendly, and getting to know the other volunteers from Leeds Beckett and beyond is one of the many rewarding aspects of your time on the project. You'll be staying in your own tent, sharing basic outdoor cooking, sanitary and living facilities. During July and August temperatures are in the high 30s and the design of the campsites and the timing of the tasks take this into account. When you're not involved in project activities you're free to explore the local towns, beaches and countryside, and evenings can be spent either enjoying the range of local facilities or just relaxing in the camps' communal areas. There are many social events organised with fellow volunteers, such as beach Olympics and plenty of fancy dress events!



Although your team leader may not be based at your campsite, they will be in regular contact with all of you by mobile, as well as the occasional visit. Each site has permanent Archelon field staff to supervise and care for all of the volunteers.

Archelon and the international volunteering team at Leeds Beckett will provide all of the relevant training, preparation and fundraising assistance for volunteers prior to departure. The volunteer team will then travel out to Crete for a challenging and rewarding four weeks volunteering. There is also the option for additional free travel, to be organised independently.

Project dates: Mid July – Mid August 2019 (dates to be confirmed) **Will go over graduation**

Duration: Four weeks volunteering plus optional independent travel

About the organisation

Archelon, was founded in 1983 and works to protect sea turtles and their habitats in Greece through monitoring and research, developing and implementing management plans, habitat restoration, raising public awareness and rehabilitating sick and injured turtles. In 1990, the organisation began running summer field projects on Crete to monitor and protect the nesting population of Loggerhead turtles, and raise awareness among local people and tourists.

About the volunteer role

Training will be provided (in English) by Archelon field staff and experienced volunteers in the different aspects of the projects, including nest location, monitoring & protection and public awareness. Other duties will involve additional safeguarding of nests during the hatching season, excavating nests after hatching to determine success rates, maintaining the project's equipment and other resources, as well as cooking and cleaning with the other volunteers – culinary expertise is not essential! All duties will be on a rota basis and you'll have the opportunity to take part in all aspects of the work.



Volunteer role(s):

- Morning surveys to look for baby turtle tracks and locate nests, marking of hatching nests, dealing with any hatchlings that are still on the beach
- Night surveys to tag adult female turtles during nesting
- Excavations of hatched nests to determine the hatching success
- Beach patrols to inform beach users how to behave on the nesting beaches in order not to harm the nests

- Safe guarding of nesting beaches at night to prevent people from entering the beaches and therefore disturbing turtles
- Running of information kiosk
- Giving slide shows and conducting Information Tables at hotels and touristic boats
- Assisting with camp-life, e.g. cooking and cleaning on a rota basis

Pre-Departure Activities and Commitments

There’s quite a lot for volunteers to do before departure. If you are interested in applying, you must make sure that you will have enough time for the project in between your studies and your work.

After your team has been recruited, there will be a compulsory team briefing and you will need to fundraise, some of which will be with your team, and some you will probably do on your own. There will be other compulsory team meetings to help prepare you for the experience. The team meetings will discuss essential health information and lots of other things to help prepare you about what to expect as a volunteer in your chosen project. Although it’s not spread evenly, we’d recommend allowing an average of two hours a week from when you find out you get a place to departure. This includes:

- Attending regular team meetings (every 4-6 weeks)
- Keeping in contact with your Team Leader
- Providing key documents to the volunteering team as required (e.g. Passport)
- Completing DBS checks or visa applications
- Ongoing fundraising activities
- Planning project resources and objectives

Key Dates

Application deadline	Sunday 11 th November 2018
Shortlisting	W/C Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th Nov
First Team Meeting	December 2018
January – June 2019	Compulsory team meetings (dates TBC)
Saturday 6th April 2019	The Big Abseil event
Saturday 11th May 2019	Yorkshire 3 Peak Challenge
Project	See dates below
Optional travel time	You must decide whether you wish to remain in country for one week following the end of the volunteering project. <i>This must be confirmed by the first team meeting in December. If not, an immediate return will be booked and you must cover any additional costs to change your flight.</i>

About the project

Project dates: Mid July – Mid August 2019 (dates to be confirmed) **Will go over graduation**

Travel – Transport is arranged for you to travel as a team from Leeds Beckett University based on immediate return after volunteering. Your project fees include travel between Leeds and the departure airport only, and unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions/alternative arrangements if you require another pick-up and/or drop-off point. If you are travelling independently, you may have to make your own return journey to Leeds.

Volunteer support – Each volunteering team has a Team Leader who is a Leeds Beckett member of staff, as well as an in-country coordinator. Thorough risk assessments and careful planning is undertaken to ensure your experience is safe from start to finish. The International Volunteering staff at Leeds Beckett will also be on-call 24/7 whilst you are volunteering in Greece, though point of contact will usually be via your Team Leader.

Accommodation –

Project specific: Volunteers will camp with fellow volunteers. You will need to provide your own camping supplies such as tent, sleeping bag and any other comforts you wish to bring. Cooking supplies and other provisions are supplied.

General: With all our international volunteering projects, please remember that we are working with not-for-profit organisations and accommodation will be different and more basic than that of U.K. and westernised standards. Please be prepared that there may only be cold water showers, basic sanitation facilities and limited electricity, with intermittent WiFi access in some places. Insects, extreme weather (hot, cold, wet, humid) and no air-conditioning should be expected.

Food – Food is a social affair and organised within each campsite. Volunteers pay into a kitty (not included in fees) and cook an evening meal/ Other meals are to be sourced individually using local supermarkets and cafes.

Challenges - You may feel a sense of culture shock when arriving into the new community. Volunteering can be a challenge and different conditions can leave you feeling a world away from home. It is completely normal to feel uncomfortable and out of your depth at first. By the end of the project, we find our volunteers look back upon the challenges as their proudest moments and they feel as though they have a second home in their volunteering country. The interaction with local people and learning about local culture is what our volunteers come to cherish most from their time in the local communities.

Other important information

If you are considering applying, please consider the following points:

- As with most volunteering projects there are often last-minute changes to the programme, either before departure or perhaps on a day-to-day basis with the host organisation. Volunteers need to be patient, flexible and understanding about the fact that arrangements can sometimes change last-minute and sometimes things do not run exactly to plan.
- Unfortunately, the experience will not always be fun and volunteers often find certain aspects of their trip challenging. Living 24/7 with other volunteers can present its own surprising challenges too, but don't worry, we expect that most volunteers will have an amazing time, and we have team leaders on hand to support you.

Fundraising

Fundraising for your host organisation is a requirement to being accepted on the project. In addition to the project fees, you also need to fundraise £100 for the host organisation. Many of our previous volunteers have had great success fundraising, and some have continued raising money after returning because they have been so inspired by the work of the organisation. We'll help you with your fundraising and encourage you to work as a group. Your Team Leader will help encourage you, and try to coordinate group activities to help you all reach your targets. Previous fundraising examples include cake sales, abseils, sponsored walks, charity nights and even approaching companies for donations to raffle. We have lots more suggestions and

will cover ideas in one of our team meetings, and provide resources for you to use, plus you can look online for other recommendations.

Beyond raising money for the organisation you are volunteering with, fundraising looks fantastic on your CV! It shows prospective employers that you have are confident, have strong marketing and communication skills, can manage events and many other skills.

Each year, to help volunteers with their fundraising targets we organise some events. This year we will be organising a Yorkshire 3 Peak Challenge and a Big Abseil off Portland Building.

Minimum fundraising target: £100

Project Fees

The project fees are £850 plus £100 Fundraising. However, all volunteers are eligible for our Global Engagement £100 bursary*, which means:

Total FEES payable £750, *plus* your FUNDRAISING target of £100 = £850

What IS included in your project fees:

- Transport between Leeds Beckett University and a U.K. airport (*based on immediate return*)
- Return flights to volunteering country
- Transport from destination airport to Crete’s centre
- DBS (if applicable)
- Camping costs whilst volunteering
- Travel insurance (subject to eligibility)
- 24-hour support
- Pre-departure training
- Branded Volunteering 1 x hoodie & 2 x t-shirts

What IS NOT included:

- Meals
- Transport costs from Heraklion to camp sites (you will take a local bus)
- Any costs for free-time activities (non-volunteering time)
- Any additional independent travel, food and accommodation costs (e.g. weekend activities, eating elsewhere or sight-seeing costs)
- Personal spending money for free-time (non-volunteering time)
- Vaccinations – Visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for details on essential and recommended vaccinations

FEE Payment Deadlines £750 payable

Category	Total Cost (£)
Deposit	£200
Remaining balance (less deposit) <i>To be paid at least 3 weeks prior to departure</i>	£550

FUNDRAISING Deadline £100 payable

Minimum donation <i>To be paid at least 3 weeks prior to departure</i>	£100
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Where your money goes:

The largest percentage of your costs is for the flights, accommodation and participation fees which often are around 90% of the total fees with transfers and other items making up the rest.

You do not pay any Leeds Beckett staff costs as part of your fee. The Team Leader gives their time for free (using their personal annual leave) and, in return, their travel expenses are paid by the University. This enables us to try to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable experience, without worrying about transfers, directions and other logistics.

*** Bursary terms**

In exchange for the Global Engagement bursary, we would like you to submit three photos **and** one of the following within one month of your return to the U.K.:

- a) Blog *written whilst volunteering* (300 word minimum)
- b) Testimonial *when you return* (300 words min) describing the impact the experience has had on you
- c) Vlog (1 minute minimum)
- d) Video edit of your volunteering experience (1 minute minimum)

How to apply

Thank you for your interest! To apply for this international volunteering opportunity, please complete the application by clicking on the Apply Now button on the website or **click here**.

Contact

If you are having any problems please contact volunteering@leedsbeckett.ac.uk / 0113 81 23804

We look forward to hearing from you!