

REHABILITATION CENTER FOR WILD BIRDS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR STAGE POSITIONS (INTERNSHIP)

General information

APUS (*Associazione Protezione Uccelli Selvatici*) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of wild birds in South Switzerland. The association's main tasks are:

- rehabilitation and reintroduction in nature of injured and orphan wild birds,
- rescue and intervention in threat situations on the field,
- protection and increase of colonies/nesting sites in urban areas (installation of artificial nests, etc.),
- projects dedicated to the protection of the nesting of the important species,
- education and information (counselling service, information materials, courses, etc.).

In 2017 the association rescued more than 1000 birds and 64 nests/colonies, we fix also more than 100 artificial nests.

The *stage* consists of an exchange of knowledge and experience between the student and the organization. Students can use the *stage* to determine if they have an interest in wildlife management, to create a network of contacts or gain curriculum experience. For someone with interest in wild animals this opportunity will show a window into wildlife for which there is not classroom substitute. Trainees can be university students or recently graduated.

The work is focused on the recovery and protection of wild birds, and is mainly developed in the Rehabilitation Center at Calezzo (6655 Intragna, Canton Ticino).

Stage tasks

Depending on the purposes of the *stage*, the main tasks for the trainees are:

- receiving the birds, assisting in perform initial exams and preparing housing,
- hand-rearing young birds (hand feeding, prepare and offer food items),
- assisting in medication and treatment process as needed for a variety of patients,
- tracking the progress of the patients by doing daily control (weights and other physical parameters),
- writing records and putting up individual rehabilitation protocols,
- preparing and maintaining outside structures (where birds develop the skills required for life after release),
- maintaining the proper functioning of the center (cleaning and repairing structures),
- participating in rescue operations, helping placing artificial nests and collaborate in other actions taken to protect the birds.

Interns will receive hands-on training and will be followed by experts.

Abilities required

We don't ask for special qualifications or experience and you don't need to have knowledge in the field of ornithology.

Although, the following requirements are necessary:

- raising any young bird requires a lot of **patience**, it is actually hard to raise tiny wildlife,
- attention to detail and recording those details is essential in this field, so as to be **methodical** and **disciplined**,
- motivation to work with great **commitment** and sense of practicality, **initiative** and sense of **responsibility**,
- identification with the **association's purposes**,
- **flexibility of schedules** and cooperation regard to unexpected problems and emergencies that may occur,
- disposition to **work outdoor** independently on weather conditions,
- all the staff (trainees and volunteers) must ensure the birds and the structures are clean; this takes focus, **cleanliness** keeps disease away and is an important task at the center,
- please don't apply if you are thinking about an "adventure vacation", since working at the center can be hard and laborious,
- a general **good state of health** is required, some allergies (pollen, grass, dust) could be a difficulty to the activity.

Stage terms

- The *stage* period is during spring and summer (from April to September).
- The typical duration of the *stage* is from minimum 2 weeks. Notice that, the longer you stay the better you'll improve learning and practicing the most interesting and challenging tasks.
- The working hours at the center varies according to the work that needs to be done (number of patients and rescue actions). The scheduling will be agreed directly with the trainee. Normal shifts generally last from 8-10 hours. You will be tired but learn so much you will be amazed.
- Days off with previous agreement are possible, generally max. one day per week.
- The association will provide for the accommodation during the stage period.
- The association does not provide travel expenses to our site and back home.
- Trainees are responsible for their personal insurance; the association declines any responsibility on this matter.
- Spoken languages during the *stage*: English or Italian.
Please apply also in case you don't completely domain these languages.

Application process

For further information please contact us by e-mail (in English or Italian): info@apusapus.ch

To send your application please e-mail us:

1. Application formulary completed (attached)
2. Copy of your university registration (with degree mentioned)

Specify on the formulary the **exact period (dates)** you intend to do the *stage* with us.

Please think about this carefully.

Be aware that the application must arrive to us **at least 30 working-days before** the date you intend to begin the *stage*.

We would be grateful to receive any information you may find interesting for us to know. Thank you.

Contact



Associazione Protezione Uccelli Selvatici nella Svizzera italiana

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