



## **Natural Talent Case Study**

**Name:** Annan Fryer

**Age:** 21

**Traineeship:** Mudflat Trainee

**Dates of traineeship:** 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017-18<sup>th</sup> April 2018



## **About your traineeship**

**Can you give an overview of your Natural Talent UK traineeship? (What organisations are you placed with/type of work you will be involved in?)**

I am placed with the Botany Department in Liverpool World Museum and Lancashire Wildlife Trust at Seaforth. I will be exploring the flora and fauna of Mudflats at multiple sites across Liverpool including Crosby and Southport. I will then be working, largely within communities, to spread knowledge about these unique environments and get people excited about their local Mudflat habitats.

## **Why did you apply for a Natural Talent traineeship?**

After studying Zoology at Liverpool John Moores University, my interest in conservation became a career goal of mine. During a trip to Rhosneigr in Wales, I explored the coastal environment and became fascinated with the variety of species and different zones all within one habitat. I knew I wanted to specialise in a subject and then focus my conservation efforts on it. Living in Liverpool trips to the coast were a huge part of my childhood and so when this traineeship came up, close to home in areas I have visited throughout my life I knew it was perfect for me. I now have the chance to specialise in an area of great interest to me and make a difference to my local environment.

## **What kind of employment were you in before undertaking a Natural Talent traineeship?**

I have had various part time jobs over the years to see me through my education. In high school I worked in a Garden Centre each weekend through summer. I then worked as bar staff at Everton Football Club (much to my LFC supporting families despair). In university I worked in Next, the high street shop, and after university I worked in a café whilst living in Manchester for 6 months.

## **What voluntary experience had you done prior to your traineeship?**

My voluntary experience is vast, starting from a young age I loved animals and so took voluntary placements to work with them. I have worked in; kennels and cattery's, a veterinary practise, a dairy farm and a lambing farm, various rescue centres, a horse stables and then took a long term voluntary placement with the National Trust. During this placement I was being trained up as a Ranger. I learnt valuable conservation skills as well as



estate management, my tool use varied from bow saws and hammers to safely using a chainsaw and manoeuvring tractors.

**What are you most looking forward to during your traineeship?**

I love learning new things and being surrounded by people specialising in all different areas, I know I will learn a lot through this year. I am looking forward to then being able to pass this on to all different community groups and get them as excited about the environment as I am. I enjoy carrying out tasks and watching the positive results that come from them. I am really looking forward to being able to do this in my home city, making important differences that I can watch hopefully for a long time.

**What skills do you anticipate this traineeship will give you?**

I am hoping to gain skills in identifying the marine life found on a mudflat. I will use skills I learn in surveying to do this and add to my data handling skills gained in university. Hunting through the resources provided to me by the Museum and Wildlife Trust, I can put into practise my literature review skills and lab skills. Although I have gained strong people skills through my previous jobs and voluntary placements, I am looking forward to using them in community engagement. I have organisational and time keeping skills and will use these to learn how to organise and run a project.

**How do you feel your traineeship benefits the conservation sector in the United Kingdom?**

Mudflats are an environment known very little about, aside from threats from Global Warming, this lack of knowledge makes humans one of their biggest threats. Ever expanding industries build on any land available, if a habitat is thought of with little importance it is at risk of being destroyed. By showing how important mudflats are and the species richness they contain, I hope to change public opinion. Showing locals that these patches of land are valuable and can be enjoyed will increase its chances of being conserved.

**What career path do you see yourself pursuing and how will this experience help you?**

I know a career in conservation is what I desire and perhaps the opportunity to gain more educational achievements such as a master's degree. This experience will give me the chance to explore and become specialised in one field of conservation and hopefully continue my career in it. This year will hopefully be the basis of a career centred on coastal habitats, and teach me enough to continue with public communications.