

2021 Internship Prospectus

International Wildlife Consultants





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About Us

- ❖ Run by Dr Nick Fox and Mrs Barbro Fox since 1975
- ❖ Pioneers in Falcon breeding in the United Kingdom
- ❖ One of the longest established breeding facilities in Europe, having bred falcons since 1983
- ❖ Over 200 Stock falcons, including more than 100 Pure Gyr Falcons
- ❖ Located across 5 farms in Wales covering 200 acres with 6 manmade lakes boasting a range of habitats and ecosystems
- ❖ Additional farms located in Wiltshire and Northumberland
- ❖ Well Established intern programme with applicants from all over the world



The main facility, Wales



Internship Details at IWC

- ❖ Internships must be a minimum of 2 weeks and can last anything up to 6 months
- ❖ Internships can be linked and merged with current University/College courses
- ❖ Working directly with a fully trained team of dedicated aviculturists, falconers and conservationists.
- ❖ Working Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm with one weekend day.
- ❖ Regular meetings and updates to ensure you are progressing and learning as expected.
- ❖ On site accommodation is provided with all internships. Fully equipped farmhouses, with extra provisions available for overseas interns.
- ❖ Interns are paid a small weekly wage.
- ❖ Based in the beautiful countryside of Carmarthenshire, close to Pembrokeshire Coastline, Preseli Mountains, Skomer Island and Brecon Beacons National Park



Members of our Wiltshire Horn herd welcoming a new member



Staff and Interns relaxing with some of the newest recruits



Basic Intern Requirements

- ❖ Good spoken English
- ❖ Valid Driving Licence (Essential)
- ❖ Willingness to learn and experience new things
- ❖ Capability to work hard and do physically demanding work
- ❖ Ability to work and live in a close-knit team
- ❖ Experience with people from all backgrounds and cultures
- ❖ Competence to work with animals
- ❖ Proven experience in a hands-on role (Desirable but not essential)



Staff, Interns and members of the Yorkshire Hawking Club after a day learning and flying



Staff and interns during a falcon shipment



Types of Internships Available

- ❖ Aviculture
- ❖ Falconry and Falcon Training
- ❖ Conservation
- ❖ Wingbeat
- ❖ Equine
- ❖ Research



A protective mother Peregrine Falcon and her young chicks



One of our Honey Bee Hives located on the farms



Sunset from one of our many wildlife hides



Fox Falcons Aviculture Internships

Period: March – September

Length: 6 months

In excess of 200 stock falcons on site with a capacity to breed around 250 falcons per season, Fox Falcons are one of the UK's leading falcon breeding facilities.

Established in 1985, we are one of the Britain's longest established breeding facilities, producing high quality falcons for Royal Families of the United

Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait since 1987.



Helping a young mother with her new chicks



Our breeding season starts in early March when the first egg is laid right until the end of September when the young falcons are shipped out to their respective clients.



A Male New Zealand Falcon

Interns are able to get a hands-on learning experience with fully trained, dedicated aviculturists.

Falcon species on site include Gyr Falcons, Peregrine Falcons and Saker Falcons.

We also have the only breeding colony of New Zealand falcons outside of New Zealand. This species of falcons, unique to aviculture, provide an exclusive learning experience which cannot be found anywhere else in Europe. First imported in 1983, the colony has provided a steady stream of youngster whilst revealing new data on falcon breeding.

Aspects of Aviculture to observe

❖ Artificial insemination

Observing staff working directly with their male and female imprints of various species

❖ Observing Falcon Breeding Behaviour

Interns will assist and observe the 60 natural pairs of falcons as they monitor for copulations, egg laying and chick rearing via CCTV.

❖ Artificial Incubation

Observing trained staff incubate over 500 eggs in a specifically designed incubation room



The first feed of the day for this young Falcon



❖ **Chick rearing**

Helping and observing feeding young falcon chicks daily.

❖ **Hand rearing imprint falcons**

Working alongside staff to rear and train future breeding imprints.

❖ **Falcon health and welfare**

With a fully equipped lab on site, interns will learn about basic falcon health care and learn basic first aid skills.

❖ **Basic falcon husbandry**

Maintaining the general hygiene of falcon aviaries and the facility.

❖ **Falcon Nutrition**

Food items include quail, rat and pigeon are prepared daily.

❖ **Falcon shipments**

Assisting in the processing of falcons during shipments as well as learning the basic paperwork aspects in addition to accompanying staff to deliver the falcons.



Peregrine Eggs in one of our many incubators

Specific Aviculture Requirements

- ❖ Background knowledge of Falconry (Desirable but not essential)
- ❖ Willingness to work early/late due to chick feeding times
- ❖ Ability to prepare a variety of food items for birds of prey
- ❖ Scientific Background preferred but not essential

For More Info;

<https://www.falcons.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/IWCUK/>

https://www.instagram.com/iwc_uk/



Falconry Internships

Period: May – September

Length: 5 months

Each year a number of falcons are trained through IWC. The training can range from racing falcons, at our newly established facility in Wiltshire, to training for Royal Clients of the middle east and for Dr Nick Fox's Northumberland Crow Falcons.



Our purpose-built Falcon Mews

For anyone interested in a career with falcons, there is no better internship to add to your CV.

Vowley Racing

Our newest venture, a state-of-the-art training and racing facility close to London. 2019 saw the first annual Vowley Race Day with competitors competing in the UK's only Tilwah Competition and the world's first ever "Falcon hunt Race"



The weathering lawn at the first international Vowley Race Day

Falconry Interns will be involved in all aspects of Falcon training, from the initial manning process and basic training, right up until they are shipped to clients or used for hunting or competitions in the UK.



Falconer and Pilot launch at the start of the Hunt Race 2019



Amy, a 2019 Intern, perfecting the art of hooding a falcon on the fist



Dr Nick Fox on Buckskin, his favourite and most trusted horse.



Watching a young Gyr Falcon play in the wind



Falconry in the UAE

Each season we send out a number of falcons, both trained and untrained to their respected clients in the UAE and other Gulf Countries. Once out there, the falcons are trained for either hunting wild Houbara or to race in the renowned falcon racing in Abu Dhabi or Dubai.

For More Info;

<https://www.facebook.com/IWCUK/>

https://www.instagram.com/iwc_uk/



Slipping a falcon in the UAE Desert



Horses and Falcons ready for a day's hawking



Conservation & Research Internships

Period: All Year

Length: 6 Months

Rewilding and Conservation projects based across 5 farms in Carmarthenshire. With over 200 acres of prime Welsh countryside, projects are always on the go.

Current ongoing projects

Welsh Beavers

With 4 pairs of breeding beavers on our man-made lakes, the upkeep and maintenance of the habitats is an ongoing project. Beavers must be monitored daily, yearlings relocated, and kits processed so the work can be very much hands on.



An Adult Beaver on one of our many lakes situated on the farms

White Stork Breeding Project

A group of 6 storks brought in from Poland, all wild injured due to electrocution are hopefully the start of our on-site breeding programme. Grounds maintenance and observation of the storks is a year-round project.



Staff and Interns with the first of the white storks

Red Squirrel reintroduction

Based on Caldey Island (off the Tenby Coast), the monastery asked our help to eradicate pest species (rats) and reintroduce the red squirrel with hopes of setting up an established breeding colony.

Tree Planting

Ongoing projects to reclaim farmland and return to natural woodlands by planting endemic species can be found across our 200 acres.



The largest of our lakes, home to beavers, water voles amongst over wildlife

For More Info and other Projects; see [Bevis Trust](#)



Historical and Overseas Projects

International Wildlife Consultants have been running conservation projects since the early 80's both in the UK and further afield.

Red Kite Reintroduction

In 1985 the breeding population of Red Kites was down to 25 pairs, each pair seldom producing a single chick. So, Dr Nick Fox approached the Nature Conservation council and offered to assist in the breeding of the kites and release the youngsters back into the wild. In 1987 the first kites were reintroduced after artificial incubation at our farm in Carmarthenshire.



A wild red kite over the farm in Wales, continuing the success of the reintroduction in 1987

Mongolian Artificial Nest Project

This project is the accumulation of 7 years' worth of research between IWC and its Mongolian research partners. The trade of wild Saker Falcons in the middle east has caused the need for conservation through sustainable use. Erecting over 5000 artificial nest boxes by 2010 in habitat lacking natural breeding sites, Saker breeding numbers have increased by 90%.

Saker Reintroduction Bulgaria

A pilot scheme was established in 2011 using captive bred Saker Falcons from Germany and Czech Republic. Falcons were released into the Balkan region of Bulgaria and satellite tracked. Since then, developments have meant Saker falcons have successfully been bred in captivity in Bulgaria at the Green Balkans Facility and it was reported in 2019 the first wild Sakers have successfully bred in Bulgaria from falcons bred for this project.



A wild Mongolian Saker using one of the artificial nest sites created from old Orange juice barrels in the steppes of Mongolia



Wingbeat Internships

Period: July – September

Ideal Length: 2 – 4 weeks

Designers, Producers and Manufacturers of Roprey Models – Robotic birds for falconry training and pest control. These high-tech models allow pilots and falconers alike to really hone their birds hunting and flying skills.

Manufactured and designed in a purpose-built factory on site by highly skilled staff. Models vary from Crows, Pheasant and Gulls but can be painted anyway you can imagine!

RC Pilot or robotic enthusiasts can help produce models and try their skills at flying against one of our highly trained falcons.



Gyr Falcon Binds to a RoKarrowan



Pilots enjoying a day's flying the roprey models

As well as producing Roprey models for falconry use, Wingbeat has been developing Ropredators for bird deterrence. Wingbeat produce models that mimic any medium to large sized raptor, with Peregrines and Goshawks proving to be the most popular.

Interns can work along side our Wingbeat manager and learn how the models work as well as their materials and technology within.

Pilots may also be drafted to help out with falcon training in Northumberland or Wiltshire.



Equine Internships

Period: June – September

Length – 4 months

Initially based on our main farm in South West Carmarthenshire, we have 5 horses who need to be cared for and exercised to a standard adequate for hunting. Internship involves completing all aspects of caring and exercising 5 horses.

During the months of August and September, the team move north to Northumberland and our surrounding hunting grounds for 2 months of mounted crow hawking with the Northumberland Crow Falcons.



Riding out with the Northumberland Crow Falcons

The opportunity to ride with the Northumberland Crow Falcons on meet days may be possible if riding is of high enough standard. Possibility to learn some basic aspects of falcon training may occur also.

On site accommodation is provided both in Wales and Northumberland



Dance-Away, one of our Arab horses enjoying the frosty Welsh grass



Previous Intern Experiences

"I really enjoyed my time at IWC, the staff were very friendly and approachable, and went out of their way to show you every aspect of breeding and training behind the scenes, allowing you to fully understand the entire breeding season."

Amy Wiles 2019

"The skills and knowledge I gained have been invaluable in the jobs I've had since, it is an intense learning curve, but the hard work is definitely worth it."

Alice Dickson 2016

"Memorable moments for me would be working with imprints up close, rearing chicks is also a lot of fun and the opportunity to expand my knowledge on the health and wellbeing of falcons."

James Dickinson 2017

"Being an intern at IWC gave me the stepping stone I needed to change my career"

Darren Weeks 2013



Darren Weeks with one of our young falcons in 2013



James Dickinson during an NCF meet 2017



How to Apply

Visit www.Falcons.co.uk to download the intern application form and send, along with a CV and covering letter to;

interns@Falcons.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Intern places are limited each year.

Follow us

For more information and up to date goings-on please follow us on any of the following platforms:

Facebook;

<https://www.facebook.com/IWCUK/>

<https://www.facebook.com/wingbeat/>

Instagram;

https://www.instagram.com/iwc_uk/

https://www.instagram.com/wingbeat_rofalconry/

Websites;

<https://www.falcons.co.uk/>

<https://www.rofalconry.com/>

<http://www.bevistrust.com/Index.html>

