International Internships in the Balkans

We are looking for graduate students who could spare 2-3 months in the summer working with the transboundary Balkans Peace Park Projection, in addition to lobbying for cross-border environmental protection, with the Balkans Peace Park Project (charity no. 1105447)

For the last 8 years, we have run Summer Programmes in our 3 countries (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro). These have involved volunteers, largely from English-speaking countries teaching English and local experts teaching of Environmental Awareness, mostly to children. But we also seek to expand our dialogue to ministries and officials and local councils, and we are planning a new initiative relating to all the villages where we have been working and including new ones. It will again involve volunteers, but will probably focus more on the policy aspects of how to link small mountain communities across borders. We need to explore with local representatives the potentiality and problems in increasing cross-border links, especially between local authorities in the national parks.

B3P needs a team of co-ordinators for the local and international project, working with one or more of the B3P committee on site, and before departure. (Several committee members live in Yorkshire, several have university links). These volunteers would work with volunteers from the region (as interpreters and guides) in the Peace Prk area, and liaise with other international organisations working in the Balkans.

Appropriate Qualifications are very much the same as those required of successful Rotary Peace Fellows at the University of Bradford – a deep concern for world justice and co-operation, experience in peace-building and initiative both with practical ideas and in following them through. Knowledge of local languages not essential, although certainly appreciated. Experience of working in communities on practical issues is helpful, and sensitivity to cultural differences important.

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