



WORKING AT DERWENTWATER INDEPENDENT HOSTEL



Each year we recruit seasonal staff to join our team as **Hostel Assistants**.

What's On Offer is More Than Just A Job

We're offering the opportunity to live and work in the beautiful Borrowdale Valley in the Lake District—a true lifestyle job with that 'escape the rat race feel'. It's for those who don't want the 9 to 5 anymore, but instead want a feeling of freedom to explore the fells, the lakes and the valleys, whilst being part of our great hostel team, delivering a unique experience to our guests.

The Hostel

Derwentwater Independent Hostel stands in its own large grounds in the Borrowdale Valley, 2 miles south of Keswick, in the North Lakes. The hostel looks out over Derwentwater, with views across to Skiddaw and Cat Bells, and backs on to woodlands and waterfalls. It is a truly unique place, and is rightly popular with schools and universities for residential trips with adventure activities in term time, and for families, individuals and smaller groups during school holidays and at weekends, as well as a few weddings and special events.

The hostel operates as a not-for-profit charity with the purpose of providing accommodation and life enhancing educational experiences to all, but especially young people of limited means.

The hostel has 86 beds in 12 rooms, with camping and camping pods in the grounds.



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www.derwentwater.org reception@derwentwater.org 017687 77246



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The Hostel Team

The hostel is run by a team of 9 staff, mostly live in, and supported by volunteers through the season. We like to think of ourselves as a friendly supportive team of staff, who create a welcoming 'home from home' atmosphere and this comes across to our guests, and is reflected in the many compliments we receive. A warm welcome from us is a key part of the Derwentwater Hostel experience.



Nature of the Work

The work involves a mix of reception, food preparation and service, and housekeeping on a daily basis, as well as occasional maintenance and gardening. We look to recruit people who are happy to learn new skills, with training on the job, but we're especially interested to hear from applicants who have experience of working in similar hostels. There is a significant physical element to the job, as we're on our feet most of the day, either cooking and serving food or cleaning the hostel. Equally important is a love of the outdoors and an affinity with hostelling.

Seasonal Flexible Contracts

Our seasonal contracts are based on a flexible working week of 25 to 42.5hrs per week, with the number of hours worked each week based on the level of hostel business. We publish rotas at least two weeks in advance, to ensure everyone knows what's coming up. Seasonal contracts run until 31st October each year.

A Flexible Attitude to Work and Life

Most important of all is a flexible attitude to work and life, and a willingness to contribute to the team effort of running the hostel. You may end up working another half hour at the end of your shift one day because a group has arrived late for dinner, or because cleaning took longer after a busy weekend. We want you to be able to take this in your stride, and have the best interests of the hostel and our guests at heart, whilst living in an amazing part of the country, with easy access to the fells or to the water.



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Hours Of Work

We work a range of shifts, based on an 8.5hr working day, which includes weekend and bank holiday working. Shifts include, but are not limited to:

Early: 7.00am to 3.30pm

Late: 3.00pm to 11.30pm

Split Shift 7.00am to 12.00pm & 5.00pm to 8.30pm

Straight Shift: 12.00pm to 8.30pm

All shifts include breaks, which tend to be communal staff meals, and you will always have at least two days off per week.

Holiday Entitlement

Full time holiday entitlement is 29 days per year, and for seasonal flexible contracts this is applied pro rata based on the number of days and hours worked. You will get the opportunity to take your holiday during the season, in order to give you the chance to get away.

Accommodation & Food Options

Live in accommodation is available, in a staff flat on the second floor of the hostel, and a charge is deducted from salary to cover the cost of your accommodation. This includes single room accommodation, with shared bathroom and kitchen. Staff also have the opportunity to opt in to hostel food, which enables you to eat the same food as our guests, and also to use ingredients from the catering kitchen to prepare your own meals.

Salary & Deductions 2022

Hostel Assistants receive £8.91ph (rising to £9.50 from 1st April 2022)

Live In Accommodation Charge is £150* per month and optional Hostel Food Deduction is £109* per month. Deductions change each year on 1st April. Wages are paid monthly on the 25th of each month for the calendar month.

How To Apply

So if you think you are the right person for us, please get in touch. To apply you should send a CV by email to Tim Butcher, Hostel Manager, using tim@derwentwater.org, with a covering letter or email, detailing your relevant hostel or hospitality experience, as well as explaining why you think you are right for the job, and what you would get personally from spending a season or longer living and working at Derwentwater Independent Hostel.

Entitlement to Work In The UK

We are only able consider applicants who are entitled to work in the UK, and we will ask you to confirm this, either at or prior to interview.



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