

bp STUDENT TUTORING

INTERESTED IN...

Undertaking voluntary work with children from local schools?

Doing something worthwhile?

Developing confidence?

Enhancing your CV?



WHAT IS STUDENT TUTORING?

bp Student Tutoring is a voluntary scheme which involves placing students in local primary and secondary schools to work with pupils under the supervision of the classroom teacher. The ultimate aim is to inspire pupils to consider further and higher education options. bp sponsor the scheme alongside Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council and it runs in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University and North East Scotland College.

Please note that bp tutoring placements run from February to April. You would start your placement after you have attended a briefing session and also become a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

All applicants must attend an online Information Session, these will be promoted at your institution in September/October. Students cannot apply without attending one of these sessions.

WHY DO IT?

Students tell us they have participated in student tutoring for many reasons, including improving their CV, gaining work experience and for fun.

Their feedback tells us that they gain confidence and enhance their employability skills in communication, presentation and time management from the experience, useful for any future career.

For many students keen to pursue teacher training, the scheme provides a useful 'testing the water' experience.

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?

Tutors spend one morning or one afternoon per week in school for a period of eight weeks, between February and end of April/early May. Your institution asks you to make a commitment for the full eight weeks in order to develop good relationships with pupils and school staff.

Please think carefully about this before you apply, particularly if you are a final or postgraduate year student as you need to ensure you can adequately balance tutoring with your studies.

Student tutors must complete an attendance form which should be signed weekly by the classroom teacher.

DO I HAVE TO HAVE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH CHILDREN?

Previous experience is not necessary, but enthusiasm and a genuine desire to work with children and young people is essential.

WHAT DO TUTORS ACTUALLY DO IN THE CLASSROOM?

Tutors are placed in schools to help teachers and support pupils. The way tutors are used in the classroom varies from school to school: they may work with an individual or group on a specific project or help someone who is having difficulties with the subject. Student tutors can act as positive role models, thereby increasing pupils aspirations and motivation to stay on in education and training.

Discipline is not your responsibility. The classroom teacher will be present in the room at

all times and it is their role to manage the class. At no time should you be left alone with the pupils.

You are not required to undertake any preparatory work for tutoring in class unless you wish to for a specific purpose e.g. planning a science experiment.

All teachers involved have asked for a tutor so you will be made welcome by their class.

WILL I GET ANY TRAINING?

There will be a mandatory online briefing session in January which you must attend to enable you to take part in the scheme. The session will include input from education authority staff from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire councils with clear up to date instruction for adhering to school Covid-19 guidelines. You will also find out which school you have been matched to!

PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Tutoring places are available in a number of primary and secondary schools in both the City and Aberdeenshire. On the application form you will be asked to choose whether you want to tutor in a primary or secondary school.

If you want to tutor at a secondary school, then you can choose what subject you are interested to work in, normally the subject you are currently studying at College or University. However, if you want to tutor in a different subject, you can do so provided you indicate that you are proficient in it, e.g. English.

You do not need to have any specialist skills or knowledge to tutor at a primary school but it helps if you can specify any particular interests e.g. music, drama, physical activities.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Initially we ask you to complete an application form available from each institutional contact. This is a competitive process and those who meet the scheme requirements will be selected for an online interview. Through the interview process we determine your suitability for the scheme, answer any queries you may have and allow you to state your placement preferences. If successful you will then be asked to complete a PVG form (see next page) for which guidance will be given.

RECOGNITION

In previous years the scheme has culminated in an annual Awards Ceremony hosted by bp HQ in Aberdeen. Dependant on the Covid-19 situation if we are unable to host such a gathering, we will endeavour to create an online equivalent event.

Student tutoring is not formally assessed but every tutor is awarded a Certificate of Participation at this event as recognition of their efforts.

EXPENSES

Travel expenses (public or own transport) will be reimbursed as long as you have proof of travel to and from school. The journey has to be from your campus to the school, or from your home address to the school, whichever is closer.

DISABILITY

If you are selected for the scheme, we ask you to let your contact know if you have a disability which may impact on your placement. We will ask if you wish this to be shared with your matched school, should reasonable adjustments be required.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (PVG) SCHEME

It is now mandatory that all adults who work with vulnerable adults and children become a member of the PVG scheme, and the local authorities involved in Student Tutoring require student tutors to be members. The cost to join the PVG Scheme is £59 and we ask that all students pay this individually to gain ownership of your record. If you already hold a PVG record you will require an update costing £18.

bp STUDENT TUTORING FEEDBACK

"It is very rewarding when you help a child understand something they were struggling with."

"I was involved in something different every week, it was great!"

"The children were fabulous! The teacher was grateful for the help."

"A good insight into the day-to-day life of a teacher."

"It was good to be able to use my degree background with the class."



OK, I AM INTERESTED. WHAT NEXT?

Contact your institution for more details on how to apply.

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