

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, Aberdeen and North East Scotland College.

Please note that BP Tutoring placements run from February to April. You would start your placement after you have received training and become a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme .

All applicants must attend an advertised 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 - end of April/early May. Your institution asks you to make a commitment for the full eight weeks in order to develop good relations 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. Depending on the teacher's preference they may introduce you to the pupils by your first name or by Ms/Mr.

WILL I GET ANY TRAINING?

There will be a briefing session in November which you must attend to enable you to take part in the scheme. This meeting will give you the opportunity to meet other scheme participants and teaching staff will share their experiences. This is your chance to ask questions!

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 kind of 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 can prove that you are proficient in it, e.g. music.

You don't 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 match scheme requirements via submission of a positive application will be selected for interview. At interview we will 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 for which guidance will be given.

RECOGNITION

The Scheme culminates in an Annual Awards Ceremony that is hosted by BP at their Dyce Headquarters, Aberdeen.

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

EXPENSES

Travel expenses will be reimbursed so long as you have proof of travel to the school. The journey has to be from your campus to the school, or from your home address to the school, **whichever is closer.**

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: If you use public transport (ie. bus or train, not taxis) to get to your placement, then you **must** keep all your receipts, plus your attendance sheet, which must be signed by the class teacher each time you attend.

OWN TRANSPORT: If you use your own car to drive to the school, your petrol expenses will be reimbursed. We will need your signed attendance sheet as proof of travel.

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 own record, which can then be accessed for other voluntary or paid opportunities. Further details will be given during the Information Sessions.

BP STUDENT TUTORING FEEDBACK

"Great experience, loved every minute. Had something different to do each week from reading a story to the whole class, working with small groups, helping individuals, doing craft activities."

"I was made to feel incredibly welcome by all members of staff. Pupils were very enthusiastic towards having an extra pair of hands to help them!"

"I have gained good memories and feel like I have helped the pupils with schoolwork."

"Excellent insight into the classroom environment, teaching techniques and ways in which children are supported."



OK, I AM INTERESTED. WHAT NEXT?

Contact your institution for more details on how to apply.

FOR ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS:

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