

Overseas Travelling with Animals

Oyster Worldwide

Answered on video

- What is the youngest age you can do mini gap/ gap year?
- Do you need any qualifications to work with the animals abroad?
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- What is the average cost of gap year?
- What's the difference between internships, volunteering and work experience?
- Are you accompanied on these trips? by a tutor/ mentor or group
- Do you need to speak the native language before you travel to the country you are going to?
- Looking on the site, I want to book a couple of weeks working with bears in Romania, if COVID cancels this, am I refunded fully, or can it be rearranged etc.
- How early do you recommend planning and booking a gap year?
- Are the projects suitable for disabled people?

Additional Q&As

Are there group discounts? If you go with friends, can you guarantee we'll be working and staying together?

I'm afraid we are not currently offering discounts for groups travelling together. However, if you book and travel with friends then for the majority of our projects you will be staying and working together. Some of our projects (namely, paid work programmes) are based around finding jobs for you based on your previous experience, so in this situation we cannot guarantee that you will be offered a job at the same site as your friends.

For the volunteer programmes, all volunteers stay in the shared accommodation (in single sex dorm/twin rooms) and work together each day. You may be split up for different tasks each day, but overall you will be working with the same team.

If you are travelling with friends, I would still strongly encourage you spend time with other volunteers and staff, as you will learn more and enjoy your time by getting more involved with the team. I know sticking with the people you know is easier, but remember that everyone on the project is in the same boat as you, so just chat and get to know them a little!

I have done my silver DofE and on a level 3 animal welfare course will it be easier to get somewhere with these qualifications?

As you have previous volunteer experience, you definitely have a head start when participating in our projects, as you will be more familiar with joining a new team and tackling new work. Looking at the Oyster Worldwide programmes, the programmes with qualification requirements need experience such as previous farm work or veterinary work experience, so unfortunately DofE may not be of much help! Having this experience would definitely be beneficial for future job applications, but not specifically for Oyster Worldwide volunteer programmes.

Are the veterinary experiences focussed on vet nurse or vet surgeons?

Our veterinary projects are suitable for vet nurses as well as training veterinarians, giving some great veterinary work experience abroad in a variety of settings. For further clarity:
[Veterinary experience](#) – shadow a veterinarian on a big 5 game reserve. No previous experience required. Hands on assistance is possible, if you have knowledge and some previous experience.
[Veterinary internship](#) – shadow a mobile vet and wildlife specialists, visiting game reserves, farms and veterinary clinics. Participants must be working towards studying veterinary science at university, or already studying.

