

# Outdoor Learning Apprenticeships Case-study



## ■ Name of Apprentice - Mel Delmage

### ■ What is the name of the company you work for and what is your role?



Field Studies Council,  
Outdoor Learning Apprentice, Trainee tutor

### ■ Please give us a bit of information about the outdoor activities and services you deliver

I am an outdoor educator specialising in fieldwork. At the Field Studies Council we teach fieldwork skills to a variety of age groups, in particular, geography and biology content for examination preparation and coursework. We integrate nature-based activities into our delivery as well, promoting living sustainably and respecting the natural environment.

### ■ Why did you decide to undertake an apprenticeship?

I wanted to try teaching, and this felt like a beneficial opportunity and way into the education sector. I did human geography at university and wanted to stay within this field, so this job perfectly ties the two of those elements together.

### ■ Can you tell us about your experience as an apprentice? What were some of the highlights and challenges that you faced during your apprenticeship?

I have made friends for life at my centre and have enjoyed learning more about biology, in particular, different freshwater invertebrates and their adaptations. I have been able to develop professionally and personally throughout my time at my centre and have been offered a range of opportunities including the Award in Education and Training qualification. The main challenge was finding confidence to deliver courses solo. However, with the encouragement of my team and having enough time to carry out observations I am now at the stage where I feel happy delivering to groups.

### ■ What did you learn during your apprenticeship, and how have you been able to apply that knowledge and skills in your work since completing the programme?

I have learnt about different teaching styles, how to dynamically adapt sessions in case of bad weather (which is often the case in the UK!) and how the centre runs day to day. I will be able to take the skills I have gained throughout my apprenticeship to my next job.

### ■ How do you see your career progressing from here, and what are some of your long-term goals?

I would like to continue working in the outdoor industry, I would like to work with wildlife and in the wildlife conservation sector or delve into teaching more. I haven't quite decided yet....

■ **How would you describe your apprenticeship experience, and would you recommend it to others?**

It has been challenging but very rewarding. I can now stand in front of a group and deliver a course, which was something I never thought I would feel confident enough to do. I feel I have achieved a lot throughout the last year and would recommend it to anyone wanting to step foot into the education sector and who likes being outdoors, as well as doing something different every day, thi job is for you.

