

ESC IN WALES, United Kingdom

Gregynog Hall, Powys

Role(s): Heritage & Engagement Volunteer

Host Project - www.gregynog.org, supported by UNA Exchange www.wcia.org.uk/global-action/international-volunteering/

Eligible to Applicants from: Belgium, Netherlands, France & Germany.

To apply for this project click [here](#) (deadline 17th January)

Gregynog Hall is a historic country house deep in the hills of rural mid-Wales, which for generations has been at the heart of Wales' educational, arts and peace movements. In 2019, this beautiful Estate passed into the care of the newly formed Gregynog Trust, whose aim is to re-establish the Hall as a centre for creativity and learning, and global thinking – inspired by Gregynog's unique heritage and natural environment.



Nestled in a 750-acre National Nature Reserve

“Anyone who visits Gregynog, even for a short time, cannot fail to be touched by its stature and its beauty; the spirit of this place envelops everyone who has the good fortune to discover it.”

Gregynog welcomes day visitors to explore the Grade 1 listed gardens and 750-acre National Nature Reserve, with woodland walks, lily ponds and diverse habitats. The [Library](#) holds a treasure trove of archives, beautiful books and manuscripts including a fine collection of books and prints from the [Gregynog Press](#). The Hall offers overnight and holiday accommodation, is a popular centre for conferences and events, and hosts a range of [musical events](#).

The Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA), Wales' leading internationalist charity - with a long heritage of global action from the 1920s to the present day - will be coordinating and supporting this ESC placement. Last year, WCIA merged with her sister charity, UNA Exchange, bringing their expertise in managing 47 years of international exchange into the work of the WCIA.

Volunteer Roles

Gregynog is looking for volunteers with a keen interest in heritage, arts and conservation to support the team with:

- Day-to-day running of the venue (including shop, café and accommodation), supporting visitors and assisting with a wide range of events.
- On site heritage research, curating displays and public information about Gregynog's history.
- Digitising archives and records from the Library..
- Hands on environmental conservation work in the gardens and wider estate.
- Blog features and social media profile, with a particular focus on younger and international audiences.
- Educational and community engagement activities



Gregynog's Grade 1 listed Gardens



L-R: *Davies family of Llandinam (archives); Courtyard visitors centre, café and accommodation; the Library; public event in Music Room*

Peace Heritage Project

Supported by WCIA, this role will be part of a wider group of ESC placements across Wales who will:

- Link their local work to Wales' wider '[peace heritage](#)', by uncovering [stories of internationalism](#) from Gregynog and surrounding communities of Powys (e.g. support for Belgian, Basque and other refugees, past campaigns on global issues, world education initiatives or youth activism).
- Research and write up stories for online features or on-site visitor information, and potentially develop these for creative social media (such as video shorts or digital stories).
- Digitise archive materials into thematic collections online, such as [People's Collection Wales](#) or [Flickr](#).
- Contribute ideas and content from your Gregynog work towards a 'team exhibition' by all ESC Wales volunteers, towards the end of the placement period.

Volunteers on placements will receive skills training and mentoring from Gregynog's different teams, as well as WCIA and other Wales-based organisations, to be as effective as possible in the role and to get the most out of this unique work experience. Volunteers should be highly motivated and self-starting, with an ambition to 'learn through doing'. Joint applications from volunteers who know each other are welcomed, though not expected.



Practicalities

Volunteers will live on-site on the Gregynog Estate, in basic but practical accommodation (the Trust is in process of renovating much of the site), including communal kitchen and shared facilities.

Gregynog Hall is in a beautifully peaceful but remote location, with limited local facilities or public transport. The nearest village of Tregynon is 3km, and nearest shops / rail station and other facilities in **Newtown** (about 12km). Groceries can be ordered online for delivery, and visits to town may be arranged with members of the team; bike loans may be arranged for exploring the surrounding area.

Day-to-day management will be under the direction of the Gregynog Trust team onsite, with regular contact with your WCIA mentors via Zoom (or other online platforms), or by phone. Occasional 'team meetings' with the wider ESC placements group and WCIA volunteers may take place at the Temple of Peace in **Cardiff**, South Wales, for which travel arrangements will be organised by WCIA.

Application Process

- Enquiries and applications via WCIA Volunteer Team, with closing deadline of **January 17th 2022**.
- Volunteers from **Belgium, Netherlands, France and Germany** are **eligible** to apply for this project.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an online interview with Gregynog Trust in **February**.
- WCIA will support successful placements through UK Visa process and other preparations.
- It is hoped that placements can start shortly after Easter (last week of **April 2022**).
- Placements are expected to be 12 months, finishing in **April 2023**.

For more information contact Michi Rohmann, on michaelarohmann@wcia.org.uk.

To apply for this project please fill in the [online application form here](#).



Gregynog Hall



Forest Drive



The 'Music Room'



The 'Blayney Room'



The Library



The Lily Lakes



Sculpture Trail



The Gardens



The Library

Gregynog.org



Senior Common Room



Daffodils, the national flower of Wales