



Exciting sand dune conservation project launches student bursaries of up to £500 in Wales

Dynamic DunesCAPES is supporting students and young people in Wales to participate in ground-breaking habitat restoration work – helping to kick-start careers in conservation

Coastal sand dunes are home to some amazing rare and specialised plants and animals, including sand lizards and beautiful orchids, but they're also listed as one of the most at-risk habitats in Europe for biodiversity loss. Dynamic DunesCAPES is working to rejuvenate many of Wales' important sand dune habitats for the benefit of biodiversity, and also for communities. Dynamic DunesCAPES is led in Wales by Natural Resources Wales and funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Applications for bursaries of between £150 and £500 are now open. The funding is available to 16-30-year-old A-level, undergraduate and master's students – and crucially, also to young people not in education. Applicants can work with the Dynamic DunesCAPES team to create their own project tailored to their interests or research areas, or students can take on one of the projects already suggested on the [Dynamic DunesCAPES website](#).

Working closely with the site managers and ecologists at each of these beautiful sand dune habitats, these projects are a fantastic opportunity for young people to gain practical habitat management experience, to undertake training, to receive support for academic student research projects or to learn more about the engagement and communication side of conservation projects. Bursaries can be spent on things such as equipment, transport, food and resources.

Projects can be undertaken at many of the sites at which the Dynamic DunesCAPES team works, including Oxwich NNR, Penmaen/Three Cliffs Bay, Pembrey SSSI, Crymlyn Burrows, Baglan Burrows, Llyn Peninsula, and Anglesey.

There are two opportunities to apply for funding this year. Apply by March 31st for projects to be completed between April 2021 and December 2021. Or, apply by May 31st for projects to be completed between summer 2021 and summer 2022.

These easy-to-apply-for bursaries are one of the key ways that Dynamic DunesCAPES is supporting young people in Wales. **David Kilner, Engagement Officer for Dynamic DunesCAPES in Wales who has helped to create the bursary program says:**

'Young people across the world are leading the way conserving and protecting our world. We want the young people of Wales to be these leaders – whether gaining practical skills, undertaking mini research or film projects, helping with our on-going research. We welcome all applicants, in education or not, and look forward to your voices joining ours as we conserve these wild, beautiful and precious spaces.'

Julie Creer, Natural Resources Wales Lead Specialist Advisor, Coastal Habitats, said:

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“We are excited to be launching the Dynamic DunesCAPES student bursary scheme for Wales. We hope that this support system will help kick-start conservation careers and allow students to participate in important work that helps keep Wales’ sand dunes healthy.

“Such schemes can help make a huge difference by creating the conservation professionals of the future. This will, in turn, help us to maintain and enhance Wales’ biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems and also support the nation’s social, economic and ecological resilience.”

To find out more about the student and young person projects in which you can get involved and to apply for a Dynamic DunesCAPES bursary, visit <https://dynamicdunesCAPES.co.uk/get-involved/conservationists/>. Download the simple one-page form, and contact David Kilner to discuss your project ideas.

Images: (Single use)

Image 1: A Dynamic DunesCAPES young people training course on identifying in dune plant species South Wales, run by David Kilner



Image 2: A Dynamic DunesCAPES young people training course on identifying in dune plant species South Wales, run by David Kilner



Image 3: A Dynamic Dunescapes young people training course clearing overgrown dune scrub in South Wales, run by David Kilner



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Find out more about Dynamic Dunescapes on the project website and social media:
<https://dynamicdunescapes.co.uk> @dynamicdunes

Notes to Editors:

About Dynamic DunesCAPES

[Dynamic DunesCAPES](#) is a partnership project restoring sand dunes across England and Wales for the benefit of wildlife, people and communities, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the EU LIFE Programme. Project partners are Natural England, Plantlife, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

The coastal dunes of England and Wales are internationally important habitats for wildlife, listed as one of the most threatened environments in Europe for biodiversity loss. These dunes are a sanctuary to rare species like the fen orchid, natterjack toad and sand lizard. Healthy sand dunes need to be free to move and contain areas of bare sand to support specialised wildlife, but many sand dunes have become overstable by vegetation and invasive species. The project works with skilled local and national experts, and involve schools and local groups, volunteers and visitors of all ages and abilities to help rejuvenate our dunes.

Natural Resources Wales' role is to look after Wales' natural resources and what they provide for us: to help reduce the risk to people and properties of flooding and pollution; to look after our special places for people's well-being and wildlife; to provide timber; and to work with others to help us all manage them sustainably. Our people have the knowledge, expertise, and passion to help make the sustainable management of natural resources a reality. For more information www.naturalresources.wales