

We have provided work experience and internships in Tenerife for nearly thirty years and to students both from across the world and from 'A' level through to postgraduate studies. Our approach is based on experiential learning, the idea that as individuals we learn and grow through doing: Tell me, I will forget; Show me, I might remember; Let me do and I will learn.

Students on work experience are seen as individuals and we aim to build personal itineraries based on their own goals and needs. The core programme is built on a range of different elements which individuals can choose between. Common to all programmes will be Spanish language training and Media training particularly in the use of video cameras and editing software:

1. Research guiding on the whale watching boats: Researching into resident pilot whales and bottlenose dolphins and into the 26 other species that pass through on their migration routes. Communicating to tourists about the cetaceans visited and on conservation issues and threats.
2. Working in animal rescue centres
3. Working in our Visitor Centre in Puerto Colon, interacting with the important tourism industry.
4. Familiarisation trips to get to know the 'real' Tenerife- culture, nature, activities- everything from visiting the capital, Santa Cruz, to climbing Mt Teide, diving with turtles, learning to Salsa and aboriginal pottery making.
5. Project work of life or academic interest. This is designed in discussion between individual participants and the Project Director. Once an appropriate project has been identified the participant is assigned to a co-ordinator who will liaise with them prior to arrival, whilst in Tenerife and afterward to project completion. There are eight co-ordinators in Tenerife with differing areas of expertise; the co-ordinator team is responsible to the Project Director.

**A typical week** would involve three days working, one or two days on familiarisation trips and one or two days on project assignment. Weekdays are pretty intense with early starts and reflection and project meetings going on into the evening. Weekends are free although for those on short visits, one or two weeks, programmes take in weekends to ensure the most is extracted from the experience- plenty of time to sleep when you get home!! This being said, programmes are totally flexible and built around each individual.

**Operating method.** In addition to the Co-ordinator Team and Project Director, there is an Administrative Director responsible for interactions with such as public bodies, and a Pastoral Care Manager responsible for the general well-being of all participants whilst in Tenerife, from sleeping arrangements through to menus, visits to the Medical Centre and general counselling. All participants help with cooking and cleaning. Over-riding all the above will be a People Manager who will be at initial meetings including interviews, will develop individual programmes, escort participants in the field, and liaise with all paperwork and reporting requirements at the end of the project. She will be each participants route into all aspects of the programme.

**Outcomes:** In addition to a great experience, much acquired knowledge, development of people skills and general CV building, each participant will receive accredited certificates covering their volunteering efforts, their Spanish competence and their acquired media skills.

**To Apply:** Book under 'Volunteering' on [www.whalenation.org](http://www.whalenation.org) Any questions: ed@whalenation.org