



# WORKING AT DERWENTWATER INDEPENDENT HOSTEL



**Working at Derwentwater Independent Hostel—a not for profit hostel operating with a clear purpose to offer low cost life enhancing residential stays to young people of limited means.**

## **What's On Offer is More Than Just A Job**

We're offering the opportunity to live and work in the beautiful Borrowdale Valley in the Lake District—a true lifestyle job with that 'escape the rat race feel'. It's for those who don't want the 9 to 5 anymore, but instead want a feeling of freedom to explore the fells, the lakes and the valleys, whilst being part of our great hostel team, delivering a unique life enhancing experience to our guests.

## **The Hostel**

Derwentwater Independent Hostel stands in its own large grounds in the Borrowdale Valley, 2 miles south of Keswick, in the North Lakes. The hostel looks out over Derwentwater, with views across to Skiddaw and Cat Bells, and backs on to woodlands and waterfalls. It is a truly unique place, and is rightly popular with schools and universities for residential trips with adventure activities in term time, and for families, individuals and smaller groups during school holidays and at weekends, as well as the very occasional wedding or function.

The hostel operates as a not-for-profit charity with the purpose of providing accommodation and life enhancing educational experiences to all, but especially young people of limited means.

The hostel has 80 beds in 12 rooms, with camping for up to 25 and 3 camping pods in the grounds.



**DERWENTWATER INDEPENDENT HOSTEL**  
**www.derwentwater.org   reception@derwentwater.org   017687 77246**



# NOW RECRUITING

## The Hostel Team

The hostel is run by a team of up to 10 staff, mostly live in, and supported by volunteers through the season. We like to think of ourselves as a friendly supportive team of staff, who create a welcoming 'home from home' atmosphere and this comes across to our guests, and is reflected in the many compliments we receive. A warm welcome from us is a key part of the Derwentwater Hostel experience.

## Now Recruiting—We are now recruiting for:

### Hostel Assistants (Live-in available) £10.42ph (rising to £11.44ph from 1st April 2024)

Seasonal (42.5 hours per week). Each year we recruit seasonal hostel assistants with start dates in February and March, working through to the end of September or October.

Working your hours over 5 days per week, your work each day will be divided between reception, food preparation & service and housekeeping. We like to employ a balanced team including individuals who like to specialise in catering or reception work.

Training is provided on the job for all roles, and we always fill our permanent vacancies from within our team of seasonal staff.

We have the following start dates available for Hostel Assistants

1st February 2024— 2 vacancies

1st March 2024—3 vacancies

### Duty Manager—Reception & Housekeeping (Live-in available)

Permanent, Full time (42.5 hours per week). We are looking to appoint an outgoing welcoming duty manager with the attention to detail and high standards required to manage our reception and housekeeping functions, and to lead and train staff working in these areas. The Reception and Housekeeping Duty Manager will take a lead on managing family and individual booking records, cash accounting, shop stock, and for maintaining housekeeping standards throughout the hostel, including implementing a COSHH regime. Ideally you will have experience in all areas of hostel operations, gained in hostels or the wider hospitality sector, in order to fulfill the wider duty manager role.



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## Nature of the Work

The work at the hostel involves a mix of reception, food preparation and service, and housekeeping on a daily basis, as well as occasional maintenance and gardening. We look to recruit people who are happy to learn new skills, with training on the job, but we're especially interested to hear from applicants who have experience of working in similar hostels. There is a significant physical element to the job, as we're on our feet most of the day, either cooking and serving food or cleaning the hostel. Equally important is a love of the outdoors and an affinity with hostelling.

## Seasonal Contracts

Our seasonal contracts are based on a 42.5 hour working week, usually made up of five 8.5 hour days. We publish rotas at least two weeks in advance, to ensure everyone knows what's coming up. Seasonal contracts run until either late September or the end of October each year. Some of our seasonal staff will have the opportunity to take up permanent jobs later in the year.

## A Flexible Attitude to Work and Life

Most important of all is a flexible attitude to work and life, and a willingness to contribute to the team effort of running the hostel. You may end up working another half hour at the end of your shift one day because a group has arrived late for dinner, or because cleaning took longer after a busy weekend. We want you to be able to take this in your stride, and have the best interests of the hostel and our guests at heart, whilst living in an amazing part of the country, with easy access to the fells or to the water.

## Hours Of Work

We work a range of shifts, based around an 8hr working day, which includes weekend and bank holiday working as standard. Shifts include, but are not limited to:

Early: 7.00am to 3.30pm

Late: 3.00pm to 11.30pm

Split Shift 7.00am to 12.00pm & 5.00pm to 8.30pm

Straight Shift: 12.00pm to 8.30pm

The early, late and straight shift includes a 30 minute break. There is also a 30 minute break in the morning element of the split shift.

## Holiday Entitlement

Full time holiday entitlement is 29 days per year, applied pro-rata for starters and leavers through the year. You will get the opportunity to take your holiday during the season, in order to give you the chance to get away.



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## Accommodation & Food Options

Live in accommodation is available to all staff, subject to availability, in a staff flat on the second floor of the hostel and in a house located next door. A charge is deducted from salary to cover the cost of your accommodation, which is currently £185 per month. This includes single room accommodation, with shared bathroom and kitchen. Staff also have the opportunity to opt in to hostel food, currently £135 per month which enables you to eat the same food as our guests, and also to use ingredients from the catering kitchen to prepare your own meals.

Accommodation and food deductions are reviewed annually, and changes take effect on 1st April each year.

## How To Apply

If you think you are the right person for us, please get in touch, specifying which role or roles you are interested in.

To apply you should send a CV by email to Tim Butcher, Hostel Chief Exec, using [tim@derwentwater.org](mailto:tim@derwentwater.org), with a covering letter or email, detailing your relevant hostel or hospitality experience, as well as explaining why you think you are right for the job, what you would add to the hostel team and what you would get personally from spending a season or longer living and working at Derwentwater Independent Hostel.

## Entitlement to Work In The UK

We are only able to consider applicants who are entitled to work in the UK, and we will ask you to confirm this, at or prior to interview.



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