



## UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man

### Youth Representative

Are you a young person aged 18-35 with a passion for ensuring the Isle of Man has a sustainable future?

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is just one part of a global network of over 750 [Biosphere Reserves](#) working to develop new sustainable development strategies, conservation practices (of both biodiversity and culture), and important research. At UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, we work to achieve this through work under [our strategy](#) 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future' and our vision of 'an Island where people and the rest of nature have a sustainable future'.

We place a high value on the voices of young people in our Biosphere Reserve and are committed to supporting their development as engaged community members. Our goal is to empower them to take action in enhancing our Biosphere. We include two youth representative seats in our Stakeholder Partnership Group (SPG) to guide the direction of our work, alongside others representing public, private and third party sectors members. This allows youth to be meaningfully represented and gives young people the power to shape the future of their Biosphere Reserve.

Rachel Smith, current youth representative, says “Young people have so much to offer in the way that we are enthusiastic, innovative and adaptable, but our contribution is often under-represented. We are still learning about the power we have to influence our world; I want to engage, empower, and inspire young people on the Isle of Man so that collectively we can overcome any obstacles for youth involvement within our Biosphere. I look forward to welcoming a new youth representative to join me in this mission, so that our Island’s young people can shape our Biosphere’s future at this key time”.

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## Role Description

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is seeking an optimistic volunteer with strong communication skills and initiative to join our mission.

You will, alongside the other UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Youth Representative:

- Gather views and ideas from individuals aged 18-35. Share these with our partners and during Stakeholder Partnership Group meetings, ensuring professional representation of the youth voice.
- Develop strategies to actively involve young people on the Isle of Man in discussions and activities related to our UNESCO Biosphere status.
- Coordinate and facilitate the continued growth and coordination of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Youth Network. This includes connecting with the EuroMAB Youth Network (with members from Biosphere Reserves around Europe and North America) and supporting the development of the UK & Ireland Biosphere Reserve Youth Network.
- Represent UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man at various events and meetings, both on and off Island (funding may be available to support attendance of off-island events).

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## Benefits

This voluntary position offers numerous benefits:

- **Flexibility:** Work at your own pace around any prior commitments and work schedules.
- **Networking:** Broaden your network on the Isle of Man and beyond.
- **Influence:** Contribute to shaping the future of our Biosphere.
- **Skill Development:** Opportunities to develop your skills.
- **Supportive Environment:** Work within a friendly team ready to provide help, support, and guide you when needed. Reasonable expenses will be covered if approved, and funding may be available for engagement and development opportunities.

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## Expectations

- Attendance at Stakeholder Partnership Meetings (every six months) and with the Biosphere Isle of Man team (monthly) is mandatory; online attendance is available.
- Commitment to the role for up to 2 years.
- Clear, honest, regular communication with the Biosphere Isle of Man team.

- Respectful and respectable representation of Biosphere Isle of Man at events and meetings both on and off island, and when sharing experiences through online channels.
  - This is a voluntary role; there is no minimum requirement for engagement, though to get the most out of the role and fulfil its responsibilities will require an average of two hours per week.
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## Application Process

To apply, send your name, age, contact details, an explanation of why you are interested in the role and why you feel you would be suitable for it (including any relevant skills, knowledge, experience, and interests), and a short proposal for one way you would engage with young people on the Isle of Man with respect to our Biosphere status to [biosphere@gov.im](mailto:biosphere@gov.im).

Alternatively, you can apply by create a short video explaining the required information and arrange a way to share it with us.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further email us at [biosphere@gov.im](mailto:biosphere@gov.im) or call 07624 236882. You can also reach out to the current youth representative, Rachel Smith, at [rachel.vsmith21@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.vsmith21@gmail.com) if you would like to chat with her about her current projects.

**The deadline to apply is the 15th October at 23:59. Interviews will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.**

In line with GDPR, we will only retain your details for as long as necessary to select the Youth Representative.