

**PIPING INTERNSHIP**

**Overview**

The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust is a national charity that supports piping and drumming tuition programmes in state schools, and the formation of schools pipe bands. The Trust is interested in advancing the quality of pipes and drums teaching and learning in schools, and in supporting career progression opportunities.

The Trust is inviting expressions of interest for a piping internship, with a view to exploring whether we can help with matching an applicant with a school tuition programme that could support an internship.

The main aim of the internships is to provide the interns with the skills, qualifications and experience to enter careers as school piping and drumming instructors. Interns will teach in schools at primary and secondary level, will help to develop a pipe band programme and will have opportunities to develop their own musicianship.

**Impact of Covid-19 on the internship programme**

From August 2020, all pupils in Scotland will be taught on a part-time basis in schools until further notice. All instrumental instruction will continue to be provided online, as part of the home-schooling curriculum, until such times as pupils return to school full-time. This means that initially all piping lessons will happen on-line.

Ordinarily, an intern would shadow their tutor-mentor as they move between schools giving lessons, and then start to give lessons themselves under supervision. The tutor-mentor would give guidance about schools policies, and there would be safeguarding training in person as well as online. All of this will be mirrored from August online: interns will join online lessons given by their tutor-mentor, and start to tutor themselves under supervision online. Eventually an intern will be able to take on their own cohort of pupils, with visiting supervision from their tutor-mentor. We will be able to coach interns with aspects of teaching such as working within a policy framework and safeguarding, online.

After-school band practices may be possible in school in the first term, with all necessary social distancing and safeguarding procedures in place.

There are however aspects of the internship that remain uncertain. Ordinarily the interns would shadow their tutor-mentor when engaging new learners in the primary schools; this aspect of the programme is on hold until in-person lessons can re-start. We do not yet know which events, competitions and trips will take place, but we remain optimistic that the 2021 pipe band season will go ahead and that the interns will get a full experience of building and running a school pipe band programme.

There is a growing consensus from music providers across the UK that online teaching is a positive experience for pupils: tutors report that progress since lockdown has been as good as, or better than usual; there is more parental engagement; there is good focus; and a range of apps and technology is available to enrich the teaching. Tutors have been able to group pupils by ability across different schools online, have been been able to interact more with their pupils between lessons; and in remote areas, there has been less time spent travelling between schools which has created more teaching/ learning time, and also the organisation of pupils into smaller groups. So online teaching brings with it a range of advantages and is likely to become part of mainstream education for the long term.

For these reasons, whilst SSPDT recognises that the internship in 2020/21 will be different from previous years, in some ways it will become even more valuable, equipping aspiring tutors with a skillset that will serve them well in the future. Interns will work creatively, and will develop and acquire a valuable set of online resources.

**Eligibility**

The roles will be tailored individually to build on interns’ existing skillset, qualifications and experience. Applicants may be school leavers, or may have advanced qualifications specialising in piping and drumming such as an HNC or a university degree, or they may have an SCQF Level 6 qualification plus experience.

Minimum requirements are:

* A Higher in Music and PDQB SCQF Level 6 or proficiency to these levels (candidates may be asked to play at the interview).
* Ability to write basic drum scores
* Member of a competing band
* Experience of solo competitions
* Good communication skills
* Competence in ICT, Maths, English
* Driving licence and use of a car preferred but not essential

It is expected that school leaver interns will gain experience to help them to make more informed choices about careers in instrumental music instruction and in the charity sector and that strengthen their applications to advanced education courses.

Interns who already have a relevant degree or advanced education qualification will develop experience of working in schools that will help them progress into a career.

**Internship Programme**

Each internship will be tailored individually to build on the skill-set and experience of the post-holder. Broadly internships will encompass:

* Piping tuition in a state secondary school and its cluster primary schools.
* Opportunities to job shadow instructors and teachers working in a variety of schools settings.
* Responsibility or shared responsibility for the development of the Novice Juvenile Pipe Band.
* Organisation of school band trips, events, workshops and competitions.
* Experience of a school Pipe Band Support Committee and fundraising.
* Opportunities to develop personal playing skills, achieve additional qualifications, and access other professional development.

**Outcomes**

Outcomes of the internships will be tailored to the individual; options are outlined in the document ‘SSPDT Internships – Strands, Activities, Outcomes’.

**Management**

The piping internship will be managed by the principal piping tutor.

**Hours**

We expect that the intern will work an average of 21 hours per week during the school term, with core days being Monday, Thursday, and Friday plus, by arrangement, additional hours during the school term and holidays for events, competitions and two week-long holiday workshops.

SSPDT may be able to offer some flexibility around hours to suit the intern’s other commitments.

**Remuneration**

Interns will earn the National Living Wage. Travel expenses to and from competitions and events and other reasonable expenses will also be paid.

The post-holder will receive 5.6 weeks annual paid holiday pro-rata.

**Term**

Internships will be start from August 2020 and will last 12 months. There will be a probationary period of three months.

**Applications**

Please send your Curriculum Vitae with a covering letter outlining why you are interested in an internship, how you think it would help you, and what attributes and skills you can offer.

Please send your application to **info@sspdt.org.uk**

**Closing date**

20th July 2020

**Interviews**

Interviews will be held online, and may include a demonstration of playing and theory skills.

**Further enquiries**

Alex Duncan, Chief Executive Officer

alex.duncan@sspdt.org.uk

Mobile: 07906 102 009

**Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust**

Administration:

Room 1, Thistle Court, 1-2 Thistle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1DD

Charity no. SC037980