



Scottish Waterways Trust



A trailblazing heritage skills training initiative for 16-30 year olds
Falkirk, West Dunbartonshire & Inverness



What is canal college®?

canal college is an exciting outdoors heritage skills training programme for young people living in Falkirk, Inverness or West Dunbartonshire. It is designed for 16-30 year olds who are not in employment, further education or training. Volunteers complete the 14 week course on the Forth & Clyde Canal, Caledonian Canal and at The Falkirk Wheel. There are no tuition fees and all reasonable travel expenses are paid.

Heritage skills training

Scotland's two hundred year old canals are rich with built, natural and cultural history and heritage. During the 14 week programme, volunteer participants undertake a wide range of practical projects helping conserve and enhance the Forth & Clyde, Union and Caledonian canals.

Topics include:

- forestry and conservation
- tree planting, vegetation management and investigating invasive species
- canalside archaeology
- monitoring and creating habitats for wildlife including building bat boxes
- archiving and field survey work
- creation of heritage and wildlife trails

Participants also learn about canal maintenance, engineering, and the management of canal structures in partnership with Scottish Canals.

Altogether, participants leave with new abilities as well as a good understanding of the many job opportunities within the heritage and environment sectors. They also gain accredited training and earn recognised awards through an innovative, digital learning platform and app.

Employability training

Time is also dedicated to employability training including:

- CV writing
- interview skills
- developing softer skills such as problem solving and how to behave and flourish in a work environment

Support is also given with practical job seeking.

Awards and certificates

Awards available include:

- SQA Level 2 Certificate in Cultural Heritage
- SQA Level 5 Unit on Working Safely
- Heritage Heroes Award
- canal college Certificate
- Saltire Volunteer Award
- John Muir Award (Discovery level)

A pathway to success

Between 2013 and 2015 the first canal college project helped young people in Falkirk and Edinburgh on the path to work. Of the 162 young people successfully completing canal college, 72% have moved into work, training, education or another CV boosting volunteering position. canal college provides memorable, hands-on work experience to help our young people unlock their full potential and discover a brighter future.

Timetable

canal college runs for two days a week over each 14 week programme:

Falkirk	Monday and Tuesday, 10:00am - 4:00pm
West Dunbartonshire	Thursday and Friday, 10:00am - 4:00pm
Inverness	Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Further information

Call our canal college youth outreach workers for further

details:	
Falkirk	Charlie - 07789 942177 / charlie@scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk
West Dunbartonshire	Lesley- 07789 941266 / lesley@scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk
Inverness	Nicky - 07789 943108 / nicky@scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk

canal college is supported by Scottish Canals and Mackenzie Construction and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Avondale Environmental through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, The Robertson Trust and the National Third Sector Fund up until 2020. In the Highlands, canal college is delivered in partnership with Barnardo's Works.

