

## EVS Placement description

# LA TOUR DU VALAT

France



## Information about the hosting organization

### Description of the organisation

The Tour du Valat is a research institute for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands located in the heart of the Camargue, 30 km from the nearest town (Arles). The Tour du Valat employs around 80 people, including fifteen researchers and as many project managers. It also hosts a large number of doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, interns and/or volunteers.

### Website

For further details, visit <https://tourduvalat.org>

### Language of the hosting organization

French



## Information about the EVS Placement

Duration (in months):	12 months
Start Date	Flexible – ideally from March-April on
End Date	Flexible

## Activity description

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a scientist? Would you like to discover life in a unique international institute? Are you motivated by nature conservation and want to discover a new culture in an exciting and friendly environment?

Working at the Tour du Valat, you will take part in the Foundation's mission to promote the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands. In your role as ambassador, you will help to understand, manage, pass on and convince people of the value and functions of Mediterranean wetlands.

You will be particularly active in the field of agro-ecology. Agro-ecology is an increasingly widespread form of agriculture, which is inspired by the way nature works and respects the environment. The Tour du Valat is offering volunteers the opportunity to help implement an agro-ecological project on the Petit Saint-Jean estate, located 8 km from Aigues-Mortes in the Gard department. The 100-hectare estate consists of a large pine forest, marshland and 25 hectares of farmland. Vines, fruit trees, timber, annual crops and some vegetables are grown here. The natural environments are also grazed (sheep, goats, cattle and horses) to control vegetation. Alternative methods of cultivation are being tested, such as animal traction, the planting of fruit hedges to optimise the presence of insects, and the installation of shelters for vertebrate crop helpers.

The volunteer will take part in various outdoor farming activities, respecting and promoting agro-ecology techniques. The volunteer will help to monitor the parameters of the natural environment and support on-site and off-site events (welcoming groups, promoting the farm's products) and organise events aimed at the general public, schoolchildren, etc. (open days, farm to farm, nature festival, etc.).

Training during the activity

- French lessons with a local teacher if you need language support;
- Best practice in fieldwork, such as an introduction to bird ringing;
- Database management and data processing;

## Volunteer's profile

You should:

- Enjoy agricultural and manual work in the field
- Be a good handyperson
- Enjoy working with animals (sheep)
- Be autonomous, rigorous and flexible
- Be comfortable working as part of a team
- Have a strong interest in nature, with some naturalist knowledge
- Have some knowledge of office software
- Have a driving licence
- Not be allergic to mosquito bites!
- Tolerate the hot temperatures of Mediterranean summers
- Be prepared to adapt your working hours (especially in summer).

## Practical arrangements

You will be staying in a twin-bedded room on the Tour du Valat site, where you will enjoy communal living with other Tour du Valat volunteers and students. The rooms are equipped with all the necessary comforts (oven, fridge, heating, internet, etc.).

During the week, you can have lunch in the on-site canteen, where you will taste the most delicious French dishes in a familiar environment with Tour du Valat staff. For dinner and breakfast, you will have a fully equipped kitchen to share with the other residents. You will be allowed to use a car at weekends and for food shopping in Arles.

## Funding

Movetia's funding for the EVS programme covers:

- Board and lodging
- International travel costs (400CHF)
- Pocket money (8CHF per day)
- EVS Trainings

## How to apply

Send your application to [daubigney@tourduvalat.org](mailto:daubigney@tourduvalat.org) (ref: TdV-2023-EVS) as soon as possible with:

- a cover letter
- a CV would be a plus :-)

For more information, you can contact:

- **ESC Program Manager of Tour du Valat:** Florence Daubigney ([daubigney@tourduvalat.org](mailto:daubigney@tourduvalat.org))
- **Project Supervisor:** Jocelyn Champagnon is currently the coordinator of the Species Conservation team, which leads and promotes the long-term monitoring programs carried out by Tour du Valat. ([champagnon@tourduvalat.org](mailto:champagnon@tourduvalat.org))
- **Former Participants:** After a volunteering at Tour du Valat in 2018-2019, Hugo Ferreira from Portugal began in 2020 a PhD on population dynamics of Spoonbills in collaboration with Tour du Valat ([hr.ferreira@ua.pt](mailto:hr.ferreira@ua.pt)); Carolina Hadden is from Portugal, she finished her one-year volunteer in February 2023 ([hadden@tourduvalat.org](mailto:hadden@tourduvalat.org))