

## About the Hosting Organisation



Sail Training Association Netherlands' main focus is to organise sail training voyages and related projects for young people. These adventures involve the youngsters in every aspect of life on board: from sailing a Tall Ship and everything related to that, to learning about themselves, discovering their talents and maximising their potential. Our Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges add an international flavour to Sail Training, bringing young people from all over Europe together. Trying to make the experience as inclusive as possible, we organise fundraising training and special voyages for disadvantaged youth.



### Project description

We work out of an office on a renovated boat "Brandaris". We are a small team, which means that you can make a real difference here, your ideas will be seriously taken into consideration and if possible – implemented. You see something we should improve? Research possible solutions, brainstorm with your fellow volunteers, and let us know – we will be happy to hear from you!

You need to be aware that our work is office-related, though with the crew on board you will rarely be bored! We sit down to have lunch together every day and catch up on each other's lives.

We communicate with Tall Ships to learn more about them and their journeys; we email future and past trainees; we update our website and communicate on social media. There is always administration to be done, and we share most of the tasks related to that. We prepare funding applications for various Erasmus+ projects and implement them: International Exchanges on Tall Ships or trainings for mentors on board the Ships. We are actively involved in promoting Sail Training via various channels: social media, videos, emails, phone calls, newspapers, etc. We also cooperate with a number of organisations in order to prepare better projects for the future.

And – of course – we sail on Tall Ships!

We are looking for four volunteers for a period from 6 to 12 months from the following countries:

Denmark  
Estonia  
Norway  
United Kingdom

### Volunteer's tasks

The volunteer's day-to-day activities will include mostly a variety of office tasks, depending on your strengths and areas you want to develop. There is always something to improve! As we are a small organisation, you will be directly involved in the projects. We welcome new ideas and value your original contributions.

There are always some tasks that we share between each other, but you will be more than welcome to find your own project within our organisation and implement it. For example, one of our volunteers has made a series of videos for our YouTube channel, while another took on optimising the website.

Although most days are spent working at an office, you will also be a part of sailing-related events: we get involved in fairs and expos, organise get-togethers and trainings. During those you will meet the captains and crews of our Ships and trainees – people who have participated in journeys. You will also meet other people who work from behind the scenes on organising sailing adventures.

Sometimes we get our hands dirty! Once in a while you might be expected to help with our boat/office maintenance, help paint a Tall Ship before she leaves for a journey or help to build an expo stand – nothing too heavy and we always try to make it fun! Open attitude will get you a long way.

Of course, as part of your project you will also sail on one of our Ships. You will understand shortly what it is exactly we are doing here, and why. Once you've gained a little bit of experience, you will become a mentor for youngsters during one of our exchanges. Don't worry, there will be trainings and tons of advice from your more experienced colleagues!

Some example tasks of our current and past volunteers include:

- preparing funding applications,
- coordinating with our project partners,
- finding participants (promotion),
- working with a website,
- social media,
- creating posters, flyers...



### Additional information

Sail Training voyages provide the participants opportunities to challenge themselves and learn. Young people gain self-esteem and learn that they are able to do way more than they thought they could. They make new friends – often international, cross boundaries, learn about other cultures and gain insights that change their perspective on themselves and the world around them. Working with us would mean contributing to giving young people the opportunity to experience all this. And experience it yourself whilst doing so.

### **Accommodation, food, transport**

As volunteer for STAN, most of your time will be spent at our office location, a recently converted freight ship "Brandaris" docked near the centre of Amsterdam. The ship is fully equipped for your stay, with modern cabins, bathrooms and kitchen. You will have your own cabin and share the living space with other volunteers. Grocery stores are nearby. Although public transport is nearby, the easiest way to get around town is, of course, by bike.

Please note that your living area will be on the ship where the office is located. That makes for a very short commute, but can also mean little privacy sometimes. There will be weekend meetings in the office sometimes and we'd like you to be a good sport about that.

The tall ships you will be spending time on are fully equipped for your stay.

You will receive a monthly allowance for food and pocket money.

### **Training during the project**

- Upon arrival training offered by the national EVS agency,
- Personal development workshops,
- Coaching by a friendly mentor,
- Coaching sessions with project leader,
- Daily guidance by our office crew or professional sailing crew (when on board a vessel),
- Fundraising workshops,
- Training/preparation to become a mentor for trainees on board sail training tall ships,
- Sail training on board certified sail training vessels.



### **Volunteer profile**

Because of the nature of our work – and living situation – we are looking for mature and flexible volunteers. Aside from doing the small tasks given to you by the project leader, we will expect you to come up with your own ideas – we do not want the volunteers to be our regular employees but instead to bring an added value from themselves (after a time to get to know us, of course). Of course, there will be tasks that we will ask you to do, regardless of your main project.

There are ample opportunities to develop here – both professionally and personally – but we believe in taking responsibility of one's own learning process. That means that the volunteers will be given the tools, environment and advice on improving themselves, but there will be no teacher-figure to make sure it happens.

#### Our perfect EVS volunteer is:

- mature and flexible,
- proficient in English,
- over 21 years old,
- able to work independently, self-motivated
- creative and inspired,
- experienced with sailing (even better if it's on Tall Ships),
- with good communication skills – or the willingness to develop them,
- prepared to come up with her/his own project after an adjustment period,
- willing to take the primary responsibility of her/his learning process.

Some additional qualities which will be a big plus:

- the ability to make and edit videos/vlogs – or the willingness to learn,
- good command of written English,
- driver's license,
- relevant work experience and/or education
- any other skills which you feel might be useful.

If you don't fit all of the criteria above but still feel that you'd be a good addition to our team, don't hesitate to apply!

**Why EVS at STAN?**

Apply if you want to have the opportunity to:

- Get a glimpse "inside" the sailing world
- Gain experience working in an office environment,
- Learn to take charge of your own development,
- Create a network within the sailing world,
- Use and develop any skills you might already have,
- Live and work in an international community and organize international projects,
- Work with external communication, e.g. social media,
- Experience teamwork within a small organization,
- Discover new talents and release your creativity,
- Work independently and learn to juggle different tasks,
- Develop yourself as a youth leader, organizing youth projects and working with youngsters,
- Live in a lively city of Amsterdam, where many different cultures mix and where there are many opportunities for personal growth, development and making friends,
- Work with a bunch of friendly people who are passionate about sailing,
- And many others!

**How to apply**

If you're interested in our project send us your CV, cover letter – feel free to get creative with it!

If you are shortlisted we will send you a short survey and get to know each other better via Skype, before making a final choice.

Send to Sander de Block on [sander@windseeker.org](mailto:sander@windseeker.org)

For questions contact the email address above or +31(0)6 8279 0115