

Volunteering at the National Marine Biological Library (NMBL)

Are you looking for a unique volunteering opportunity within a specialist research library overlooking the iconic Plymouth Hoe?

At the National Marine Biological Library (NMBL), our small and welcoming team offers a varied and rewarding volunteer experience. You'll have the chance to contribute to a focused project or get involved in a range of activities across our library and archives.

Our current volunteers support everything from rare book care and conservation to cataloguing our general collections, creating engaging displays, and even writing news stories for the Marine Biological Association (MBA) website based on fascinating archive materials.

No previous library, archive, or marine biology experience is required — we'll provide all the training and support you need.

What you'll gain by getting involved:

- Become part of an enthusiastic, diverse team — and make new friends along the way
- Play a key role in supporting researchers working on internationally recognised marine science
- Help safeguard and celebrate our unique heritage collections
- Contribute to telling the story of marine biology — past, present, and future

What's involved?

Your activities may include:

- Caring for and preserving archive collections
- Conducting archival research to help engage and inspire audiences
- Supporting the maintenance of our print collections — cleaning, cataloguing, and creating displays
- Assisting with social media content to promote our work

This role will suit you if you are:

- Passionate about marine biology, conservation, books, historical collections, or simply keen to try something new
- Looking to gain experience in libraries, archives, or heritage environments
- Comfortable working both independently and as part of a team
- Able to volunteer on a regular basis — our main volunteer day is Tuesday, with additional opportunities on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

- Aged 18 or over

If you're interested and would like to learn more, please contact the library team at nmbi@mba.ac.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!