



Finance Officer

We are looking for someone to support all of our financial work of the charity, working with the team, to include grant administration and working with our auditors. This is a role with the potential to support impactful, multi million pound projects and to take on greater responsibility into the future, if desired.

The Forest of Avon Trust is the West of England's tree and woodland charity, an independent charity and one of a national network of England's Community Forests.

We are growing our work and impact through implementing the Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England launched through a wide scale partnership, delivering a multi-million pound Defra Nature for Climate tree planting programme, land acquisition and delivering a growing series of courses in woodland health and wellbeing.

We work across Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Our main activities are based around tree planting, woodland management, delivering health and wellbeing activities, education and training.

One-year fixed term contract to start as soon as possible. The intention is that the contract will be annually renewable, subject to funding.

- 3 days per week minimum (22.5 hours)
- Flexible working hours and days
- Hybrid working with more time initially in the office and then flexibility to work from home
- Starting salary of £29,217, per annum pro rata
- Employee Pension Scheme with 3% employer contribution
- Expenses paid for approved mileage or travel costs incurred within the West of England
- Opportunity to play a key role in a growing charity with development and training potential

Job Description

Managing the financial functions of the charity to include financial and grant accounting and processes. This work can be supported with our General Assistant role.

Finance and Contracts

- Maintaining effective and accurate financial systems, including the timely production, inputting and processing of orders, invoices, payroll and payments. Addressing gift aid claims, VAT issues and managing restricted funds.
- Supporting the Executive Director with reporting to the Board on budgetary projections, actuals and variance.
- Supporting and supplying information for the preparation of the Accounts and auditing, working with the appointed Auditor and Executive Director.
- Supporting the Executive Director with the oversight of third party contracts.

Grant administration

- Maintaining the financial and administrative components of the Trees for Climate grant scheme and all other grants and funding awarded to the charity, including recording of grant agreement figures, claims processing and end of year reconciliation and reporting.

Donations and other funding

- Managing any complex financial elements of the donor journey, recording and reporting on donations and preparing reports.

Board, Policy and Governance

- Supporting Board meetings by sending out agendas and papers, coordinating attendance, taking and circulating minutes and reporting to the Board on the financial reports, where required.
- Supporting the Executive Director and team in inputting into staff policies and charity governance and complying with all health and safety and other legislation, to include diarising key dates.
- Support yearly GDPR information audits and to maintain all Trust financial information in an orderly manner in accordance with charity and GDPR regulations.

Job Specification

Essential Criteria – evidenced with experience and skills

- Accounting qualification at AAT level 3 or equivalent.
- Strong administration skills and ability to organise work and coordinate multiple tasks with a clear plan and approach.
- Ability to support the management of grant funding both as grant provider and grant recipient.
- Ability to support the management of substantial funding budgets, comprising diverse funding streams and donor and sponsor relationships.
- Ability to use Excel or an equivalent programme to clearly present budgets and financial and project management information to staff and Board members.
- Ability to use Xero or another financial management system to process and record financial transactions and to generate and track orders and invoices and ensure their timely payment and to generate financial reports, including for annual accounts and audits.
- Ability to use own initiative, improve systems and work proactively to support the team.
- Accuracy and attention to detail.
- A professional manner in representing the charity and its work.
- A commitment to the Forest of Avon Trust's goals and values.
- Access to a vehicle or the ability to travel to the office and to meetings and other commitments in the West of England.

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of a financial/administrative role within a charity and/or experience of related charity policy and best practice.
- Experience of audits.
- Good knowledge of grant scheme conditions and reporting requirements.
- Experience of taking and preparing minutes for Boards and working with a Board of Trustees.

- Experience of gift aid regulations and practices, GDPR compliance, VAT issues and managing restricted funds.
- Experience of administering staff payroll (We work with an accountants firm to support payroll).

The above overview contains the main duties and responsibilities for this position. However, in a small organisation such as The Forest of Avon Trust, staff members are expected to show flexibility in their approach to work and be willing to undertake other tasks that are reasonably proposed but which are not part of their regular job description.

Where any task becomes a regular part of an employee's responsibilities, the job description will be changed in consultation with the employee.

We encourage applications from diverse backgrounds, in particular candidates from communities and catchments in which The Forest of Avon Trust is engaged. We are pleased to be an equal opportunity employer and applications will be considered without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, veteran status or age. The Forest of Avon Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable people and expects all members of staff to share this commitment.

Please send a CV and a written statement of your experience set against the essential and desirable criteria above to emily.dymond@forestofavontrust.org by 5 pm on Sunday 21st August 2022 with interviews anticipated to take place between 24th-26th August. Upon receipt you should receive confirmation within 2 working days (please contact us if you do not receive this) and your application will be anonymised for shortlisting.

Weblink: <https://forestofavontrust.org/the-trust/new-vacancy-for-a-finance-officer>

For more information on the Forest of Avon Trust, please go to: **www.forestofavontrust.org**

For more information, please call **Alex Stone on 07375 842732.**