

Information for volunteers at the Heligoland field station of the Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland"

You must be at least 18 years old to work at the Heligoland field station. Additionally, good physical fitness is required for the diverse tasks in the field. Please send your application to:

helgoland@ifv-vogelwarte.de

Applications should include a cover letter and a resume, ideally combined in one pdf-file. Give details on how long you want to volunteer at our station, your availability and preferred dates. For months January to June please apply latest 31.7. of the year before. For months July to December please hand in your documents until 28.2. of the same year. Applications remain possible even beyond the given deadlines, however, the chances for success are much lower. Volunteers are welcome all year round, the most attractive times of the year being March to May and September to November (bird migration) as well as June to mid-July (guillemot and gull ringing).

In order to make your time on Heligoland worthwhile for you as well as for the field station, a minimum length of stay of four weeks is required. The maximum length of stay is three months. Once we have agreed on your volunteering period, you are expected to stick to it. There is no overnight accommodation for private guests at our station.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to remunerate your work materially or financially. However, accommodation at the field station (twin or triple rooms) is free of charge. Bed linen and towels are provided. You can do your laundry for a small fee (0.75 € per wash load) and therefore do not need to bring your entire wardrobe, even if you stay for an extended period. Food is paid for by a shared kitchen wallet, into which each volunteer pays 3.50 €/day (Sundays 4 €), drinks excluded. Meals are generally vegetarian, often vegan. Kitchen duty is carried out by one person each day and involves shopping, preparing meals (for up to 15 people) and keeping the kitchen clean.

Working hours: Mon. - Fri. 8am -12pm and 3pm -6pm
Sat. 8am -12pm
Sat. / Sun. Assistance with trapping as needed

Deviations from this are possible if required.

During the week, the working day starts at 8am with the bird log and the distribution of the day's tasks. From Monday to Friday, another staff meeting is held at 3pm (with coffee and tea).

Birds are caught once every hour in the trapping garden every day, also on weekends. There always have to be enough people available for the trapping activities every day. Recreational plans, e.g. as compensation for weekend work, can be agreed upon at the latest the same morning during the staff meetings.

As a volunteer, you will participate in the entire ongoing work of the field station. This includes trapping birds, garden and repair work, bird censuses, data entry, office work and cleaning common living areas. If desired, volunteers can also get involved with the guided tours of the trapping garden for groups of tourists, school and university students.

Since volunteering at the field station involves a significant amount of fieldwork, you will need good physical fitness and warm, rainproof clothing as well as sturdy shoes. Rubber boots are not required and we have some extras at the station, but slippers for the house are useful.

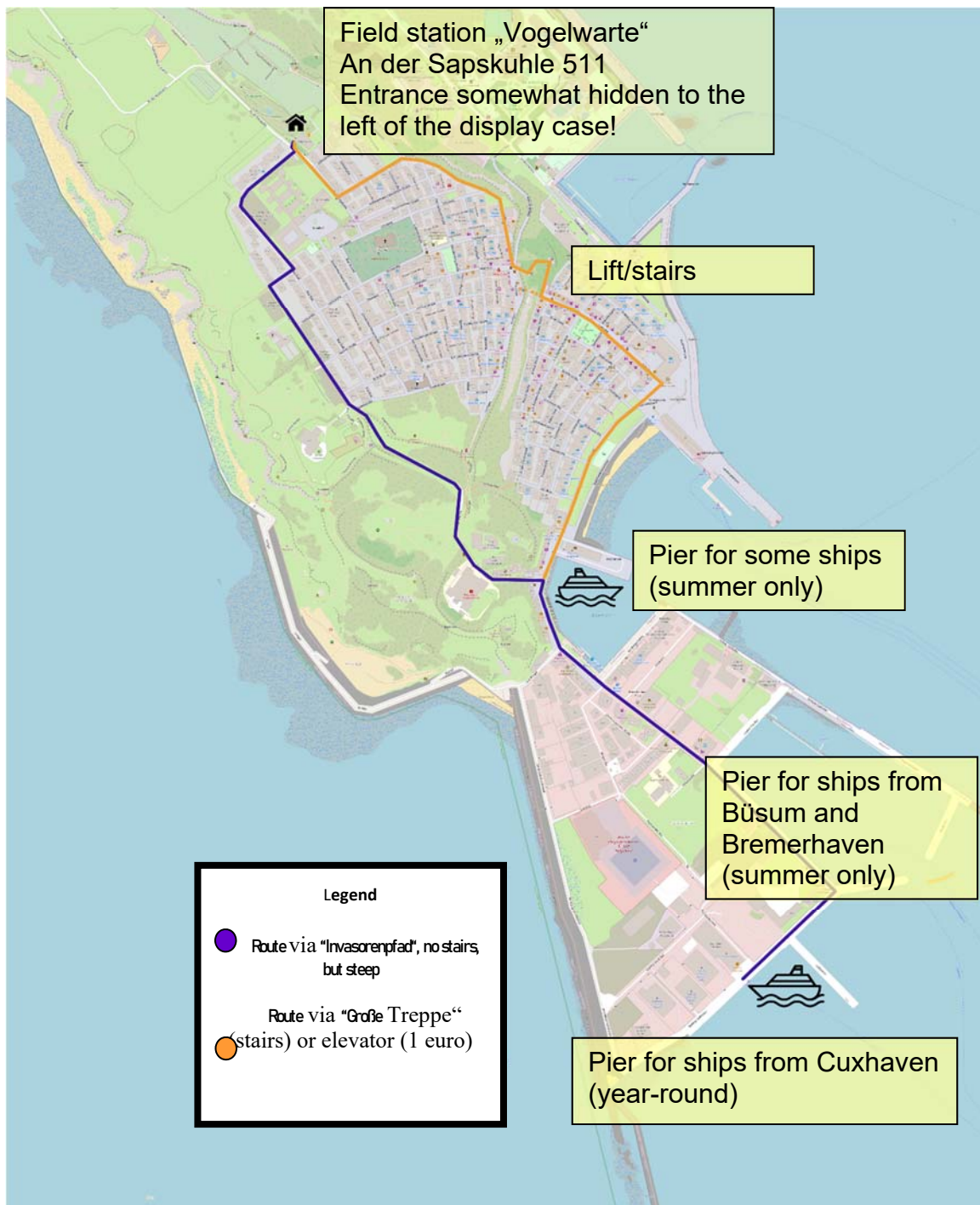
If you can, bring binoculars and a bird identification book, (we recommend "Collins Bird Guide" by Lars Svensson, HarperCollins publishers, also available as an App) as well as a spotting scope if you have one. Birdwatching experience is helpful but not a prerequisite for an internship. Internet can be accessed via wifi.

The best ferry connection to Heligoland departs from Cuxhaven with the "*MS Helgoland*". During summer there are also ferries departing from different coastal towns. Please inform yourself about the timetable in advance (among others at Heligoland's tourist information "Heligoland Touristik GmbH" (www.helgoland.de). Timetables and information regarding weather-related ship cancellations are available on the shipping line's website (<https://www.helgoland.de/fahrplanaenderungen/>). Usually, ships often do not sail when waves are more than 2 m high. For wind and wave height forecast, see www.windfinder.com/forecast/helgoland#.

Travel expenses of volunteers staying for at least four weeks can be reimbursed. Only costs within Germany and on presentation of the original receipts are reimbursable, booking confirmations are insufficient. Always use the cheapest means of transport including any discounts (e.g. Bahn card, budget prices etc). One ship return ticket is cheaper than two one-way tickets (therefore only this amount will be reimbursed). You can also change return date easily if you don't know it yet. Catamaran tickets aren't usually refunded and have to be justified individually. Only the cheapest connection is refunded: extra costs must be paid personally.

For further information, please contact us at +49 4725 64020 or at helgoland@ifv-vogelwarte.de. We are looking forward to your application!!

The bird-observatory-team.



In summer, it is best to take the "Invasorenpfad" (blue line) or the elevator/stairs (orange line) to reach the upper part of the island and then go further to the field station.