



**SEAS
YOUR
FUTURE**



T: +44 (0) 1305 839835

E: enquiries@seasyourfuture.org

www.seasyourfuture.org



Here's an opportunity for you to join with us to help more young people on their voyage of self-discovery, and life-planning towards employability.

Since 2008, Seas Your Future, run by the charity Adventure Under Sail, has been changing young lives through the power of the ocean. Initially set up to provide bursaries for youngsters eager to get involved in sail related activities, it now operates a full calendar of sailing programmes aboard the tall ship Pelican of London, which the charity acquired in 2012.

As Pelican crew members, young people from different backgrounds, aged between 14 and 25, embark on a voyage of self-discovery like no other. They join us to learn from experts in sail training, explore the possibilities of a maritime career or pursue a passion for ocean science and environmental conservation. For many, the adventure begins well before they set sail on the Pelican. Whether they are journeying with us for 7 days or 6 months, they take responsibility for personal preparation, checking documentation carefully and finding the courage to travel independently. From start to finish, it's all about working with others, watching friendships flourish and positively shaping their future direction.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life so far. It's so intense being out on a boat for a week with people you don't know but I'm after making friendships that I know will last a long time. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."
(Sail Training Ireland Trainee, May 2019)





A tall ship that's big on impact

For almost 10 years, ownership of Pelican of London has enabled us to build alliances with sailing and maritime institutions around the world. The Pelican, a 45-metre three-masted, square-rigged tall ship is one of only two owned by charities that now operate from the UK. Thanks to the partnership support of Ocean College, Sail Training Ireland and other philanthropic sources, this wonderful vessel has welcomed aboard thousands of trainees and put **hundreds of young people on a course to careers in everything from marine conservation to oceanography and electro technical engineering.**

We work with youth charities and education providers to ensure that our **applicants come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds**, some of whom may be recovering from mental health issues. We have also remained true to our roots, offering substantial bursaries to many who would otherwise have been unable to join one of our voyages. Since the spring of 2018, despite the challenges of running programmes in a global pandemic,

we have trained over 1,400 young people. Nine out of ten of these received financial support of up to 50% of the cost of a fully paid place. Not only do these trainees acquire first-rate sailing skills, but they are also given a unique opportunity to learn the value of teamwork, problem solving and to listening more effectively. When asked to score how much their confidence has grown during their experience, all of them report significant, positive changes that have a lasting impact on the way they view the world.

"Sure, I'm still me. But my way of seeing and thinking is different. I go around better and calmer with stress, anger, grief and things I can't change anyway. I've gained a certain composure. I have also become very aware of how the world works. Economically as well as between people." [Ocean College Trainee 2018/19].



Why we need to do more

Our charitable objectives have been shaped in response to a number of key UK Government policies aimed at improving the resilience, self-confidence, and independence of young people. They also respond directly to at least six of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: for good health and wellbeing, quality education, decent work and economic growth, gender equality, climate action and life below water. In each of these policy areas, the need for innovative opportunities that engage young people and put them on a pathway to more fulfilling, rewarding futures continues to be more important than ever. We are acutely aware of this because, year on year, we have seen the demand for our sail training experiences increase dramatically. In 2021, with Ocean College we received 71 viable applications for 35 places on our 6-month Pelican transatlantic voyage and we received more than 100 applications for the 22/23 programme. Our shorter, summer voyages operating around the UK and Europe are now at 96% capacity.

Clearly, there is a need to do more. We are seeing a rapid rise in the numbers of young people wanting to sail with us, partner organisations are asking us to schedule more voyages and other youth charities are inviting us to collaborate wherever our core objectives align. But, with only one tall ship that already sails 48 weeks a year and without a sustainable approach to building our income streams, it would be difficult to step up and effectively meet the increasing demand.

Our vision for future voyages: we want many more young people to learn about themselves and develop new skills

We truly believe in the transformative impact of spending time with like-minded crew members on board the Pelican. The young people who journey with us are not only taught to develop new skills, but are also encouraged to discover what drives their ambitions and interests. This kind of knowledge and experience is invaluable, helping trainees from more disadvantaged backgrounds to radically improve their life chances.

Our vision, as we map out our direction for the next 5 years, is to offer life changing, sail training experiences to even more young people. So that we can accept at least twice as many applicants, many of whom are living in areas of high social deprivation, we plan to;

- Remodel a second tall ship which we have recently purchased, the Fridtjof Nansen, for which the total cost will be £1,450,000. The TK Foundation and Ocean College have generously committed around £600,000 towards the project, leaving us with a shortfall of £850,000 to secure from philanthropic sources. This will help to fund a substantial remodelling and upgrading of the ship to make it suitable for our short and longer voyages.
- Raise a minimum of £150,000 pa to ensure at least 400 bursary places a year on our 7 and 10-day voyages that take place over the Spring and Summer.
- Increase our annual donations and fundraising income to as much as £1 million pa, ongoing, over the next 5 years. This is to underpin the operational costs associated with an expanded programme, as well as to help to fund new sea and land-based activities with younger applicants aged 11-15.

These fundraising objectives promise to generate a multitude of benefits to the growing community of young people whom we serve. They also support the charity's broader strategic vision, helping us to cohesively integrate our youth sail training with the fostering of maritime careers and an ocean science syllabus. A more sustainable income stream will give us the foundation to strengthen our relationships with local councils, educators, youth charities and social enterprises, all of whom share our ambitions to deliver ground-breaking training programmes to young people in the UK and Europe. With additional funding, we can have a positive impact on the future direction of more than 1,000 young people every year, by;

- Offering sail training programmes that are designed around adventure, challenge and the opportunity to deal with the unexpected.

- Subsidising voyage costs for those who can't afford to pay, wherever possible.
- Introducing trainees to the rapidly emerging 'Blue Economy' and its role in protecting ocean life and attracting sustainable investment in Blue Growth industries. This means expanding our ocean science educational voyages, so that young people who care passionately about safeguarding the planet can explore the opportunities of building lifelong careers in the sector.
- Delivering maritime training and taster experiences that enable young people to appreciate the wealth of career opportunities in the maritime industry. From navigation and engineering, to marine architecture and aquatic veterinary sciences, the options are vast. Currently up to six cadets and/or apprentices sail on these specialist voyages, but increased funding would give us the opportunity to more than double these places.
- More research and experiments are undertaken on general voyages, not specifically dedicated to ocean science, with a small number of experts or students on board.
- Working with partners to grow the capacity of sail training in the UK. Over the next five years we plan to pursue opportunities to expand SYF operations by chartering, managing or owning additional vessels, like the Fridtjof Nansen.



Learning to sail is just the beginning: voyages with SYF can lead to focussed life-planning

Training young people to sail is where a journey with SYF starts. Once on board, a young person's experience becomes a process of discovery unlike anything they have been part of before. In a completely new environment, they learn the importance of calculating risk, adapting their way of thinking and understanding what it means to live and work as a team. Their journey becomes one that embraces the whole person; physical, emotional and, surrounded by the power of nature, often spiritual. There are few other places where young people are offered the chance to develop maritime skills, over an extended period, which go on to foster a lifelong love of the sea and a passion to protect its ecosystems.

We welcome personal, marketing, and CSR funding to support us

Our plans are ambitious in scale and inclusive in scope. Undertaking vital remodelling work on a second tall ship, boosting our bursary provision and securing a sustainable annual revenue stream of up to £1million pa, together represent the most significant fundraising challenge undertaken by the charity.

We'd love you to join us in meeting this challenge and helping more young people to embark on the voyage of a lifetime. Your financial support will help us to offer many more young people these exciting opportunities, introducing them to new education and employment options. In return, you or your company and brand will be associated CSR success in supporting Young People, Employability initiatives and Climate Action. We will keep you informed about the impact your funding is having, ensure that you can follow the progress of students by keeping in touch with you, and will be happy for you to share their uplifting stories with your own supporters, clients and stakeholders.

If you're interested in being involved, please do let us know. You may have ideas about how you'd like to be engaged with us too and we are keen to hear these.

Adrian Ragbourne, CEO, Seas Your Future



T: +44 (0) 1305 839835
E: enquiries@seasyourfuture.org

www.seasyourfuture.org

