Specialist Grants Advisor Role Description

Are you passionate about changing the way we treat animals? Do you want to help reduce environmental damage? Do you want to inspire people to enjoy healthy vegan food that both looks good and tastes great?

The Vegan Society aims to make veganism more accessible. We help people to adopt a vegan lifestyle by supporting individuals, policy- and decision-makers, caterers, manufacturers, healthcare professionals and the media.

Why do we need you?

We have two grant-giving programmes at The Vegan Society, both of which are managed by the Volunteering and Engagement Officer. We are looking for a specialist volunteer who can help with assessing applications from economically developing countries (EDCs). We do not have this expertise in-house, so we need volunteer support from someone who is experienced and knowledgeable about working on the ground with grassroots organisations in EDCs. For the purpose of this specific role and project, we are defining EDCs as countries that have one-third of the GDP of the UK. We can provide more information about this definition to interested candidates.

What does this role involve?

This is a flexible role and requires around four hours a week of reading and reviewing grant applications. You will also be asked to attend meetings with staff and to share your opinions with the Volunteering and Engagement Officer and other staff members at The Vegan Society. You may also be asked to feed in to wider decision-making, check external documents and support the Volunteering and Engagement Officer in writing copy and developing internal strategies for handling grant applications from EDCs.

Is training and support available?

Because this is a Specialist Advisor role, the expectation is that you will have knowledge in a particular area that is not shared by the staff at The Vegan Society, so training will not be available in this area. However, you will be supported by the Volunteering and Engagement Officer, who will work closely with you and provide all the necessary training on our internal systems.

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What skills would be useful in this role?

- An awareness and knowledge of vegan current affairs.
- The ability to critically analyse and score grant applications against set criteria.
- An awareness of The Vegan Society’s history, approach and work.
- Proficiency in a second language (Spanish, French, Hindi, Arabic or Swahili).
- First-hand experience of working in EDCs (e.g. planning projects or events).
- Open-minded, with a desire to be conscious of your own internal biases and to examine and reject personal prejudices.
- A knowledge and understanding of the concept of white saviourism and the desire to avoid this in favour of empowering and supporting local people to work in their own communities.
- The ability to work independently.
- Experience of working to a brief, including a deadline.
- Confidence to communicate any training or support needs.

Who does this role report to?

The Volunteering and Engagement Officer.

Who can I contact to find out more?

You can contact the Volunteering and Engagement Officer at volunteer@vegansociety.com