



MARPA HOUSE | FULL-TIME VEGETARIAN COOK

Role Profile and Job Description

This is a residential role for a skilled vegetarian cook. Full board and accommodation are provided as well as a monthly salary, living in a beautiful Buddhist retreat centre in the UK.

Marpa House is a Buddhist retreat centre for the study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism in the Karma Kagyu tradition, set in beautiful, tranquil countryside not far from Cambridge and London. Marpa House opened in 1973 as the first Buddhist Centre in England, and our community is welcoming, friendly, and extremely dedicated.

We run regular courses, retreats and teachings. All staff are expected to participate fully in the spiritual life of the House: daily meditation, pujas and practice. This is a role for a practitioner-volunteer seeking to deepen their practice and is suitable for anyone committed to a spiritual path.

We are looking for a talented cook skilled in vegetarian cooking. This is a residential live-in role; you will have your own single room and receive full bed and board as well as a monthly salary of £300. You will also receive an annual holiday allowance plus an annual retreat allowance of fully funded personal retreat time here in the retreat wing.

You will be responsible for preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner for those staying at Marpa House six days a week. Usually, there are between 4-12 people to cook for daily, but this can rise to 40 or more people during certain events. You will also support catering at larger events and work with other staff and volunteers who help in the kitchen. Weekend work is expected as part of this role.

Ideally, we are looking for someone who can commit for two years or more.

www.marpahouse.org.uk

JOB DESCRIPTION – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Key Tasks

- Creating varied, healthy, delicious vegetarian meals, working to a budget, and ordering and managing stock.
- Cooking for resident teachers including Lamas and Khenpos.
- You will be responsible for relevant paperwork as well as cleaning the kitchen to Health & Safety and food hygiene standards.



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- You will be responsible for keeping the retreat kitchen fully stocked for retreatants.
- Joining the daily meditation sessions to help maintain the spiritual life of the House.
- Helping to ensure that visitors and residents are complying with relevant policies, including GDPR, Health & Safety, Fire Safety and Safeguarding policies.
- Any other duties commensurate with the nature of the role, as required by the Centre Manager/Trustees.

Working hours, annual leave and other absence

- Working hours are approximately seven hours a day, six days a week, including weekends. One day off per week.
- 6 weeks annual leave a year, dates to be agreed in advance by the Trustees. Staff are usually expected to work on bank holidays.
- A one-month retreat voucher for a full retreat at the House is awarded for every two years of service (or can be taken as additional leave).
- Remuneration and working conditions
- You will receive a monthly salary of £300 plus full board and lodging (with no bills to pay). We will reimburse reasonable travel and any other out-of-pocket expenses for duties undertaken in the course of your work.
- As this is a full-time role, you cannot engage in paid work outside your House duties.

Additional notes

Inclusion, equality and diversity are fundamental to our core beliefs and values. That's why we welcome people from all ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, socio-economic classes, disabilities and ages in everything we do. Because of the nature of the role, a background in Tibetan Buddhism, ideally within the Kagyu/Nyingma lineage is ideal.



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Experience and skills needed

Essential

- The successful candidate will have experience of cooking for larger numbers of people, managing a kitchen effectively and working harmoniously as part of a team, including supervising volunteers.
- Because of the spiritual nature of the community, we are looking for someone who is actively practicing or interested in Buddhism.

Desirable

- Ideally, you will have a Food Hygiene Certificate Level 2 and an understanding of COSHH, although training can be provided on these.
- Experience of living in a spiritual community is desirable.

How to apply

Please complete the application form available at www.marpathouse.org.uk/recruitment

Deadline

Applications are open on a rolling basis and will be reviewed at the start of every month. We will continue to look until the roles are filled.