



Job Description

Student Placement – Ectotherms

Grade: Early Careers

Directorate: Operations

Location: WWT Slimbridge Wetlands Centre

Reporting to: Living Collections Supervisor - Ectotherms

Overview:

We're WWT, the charity for wetlands and wildlife. We're on a mission to restore wetlands because they are a wondrous solution to the problems our world faces. Together we will unlock their power – and help nature burst back to life. Because when wetlands flourish all life will flourish.

At WWT our people are instrumental, and we want to inspire future conservationists to help lead the way. This learning and development placement is designed to provide experience and skills development in the following areas:

- Practical animal care experience, in a wetland setting
- Experience of the workplace
- Wetland conservation.

You'll work within the Living Collections team, developing practical animal care experience, and increase your animal behavior and welfare knowledge. The role will involve the day to day care of the animals in our 'Toad Hall' exhibit, as well as engaging the public in understanding more about these creatures and understanding the threats they face. You'll maintain and develop exhibits within the site, in order to improve welfare standards for our animals, and enhance the visitor experience, developing communication and presentation skills. As part of a BIAZA member zoological collection, this role is a great opportunity for someone looking for experience in animal or conservation based roles.

Responsibilities of the post

1. Daily basic animal care e.g. feeding, water changes, temperature checks and management of life support systems.
2. Helping with new projects, potential exhibit planning and building.
3. Assisting and observing in administering health treatments and veterinary care.
4. Conducting interactive presentations to engage the general public in the work of WWT, the amphibians in the Toad Hall exhibit, and wider conservation messages.
5. Ectotherm species research.
6. General maintenance of public and back of house areas.
7. Adhering to all bio-security and hygiene protocols across the Living Collections.
8. If you are required to carry out your own research project as part of your qualification, you will be supported to do so.

Working at WWT

1. To work alongside volunteers encouraging, developing and supporting them in their work for WWT, ensuring that they have a positive volunteering experience.
2. Where appropriate, learning to and practicing supervising volunteer teams.
3. To be responsible for working within the WWT health and safety policy and guidelines ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of yourself and others is an integral part of how you work.
4. To be responsible for engaging with the WWT Sustainability Statement, being aware of negative environmental impacts and incorporating sustainable ways of working within your role.
5. To interact with our visitors and supporters in a positive way, shaping unforgettable experiences and helping them understand and connect to wetlands.
6. To ensure that in the course of your work you adhere to the WWT Data Protection policy and standards.

In addition to the duties and responsibilities listed, the post holder is required to perform any other reasonable duties that may be assigned by the supervisor shown above, from time to time.

Date raised: December 2023

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- Studying a relevant course which requires, or allows, a one year practical placement. Please note that this training placement is targeted at, and designed for, students. However, it is not essential that you are a current student.

2. Experience and skills

Desirable:

- Interested in practical animal care, with some experience of a similar role and a particular interest in amphibians.
- Able to work in a team of staff and volunteers, and demonstrate good people skills.
- Proactive and able to carry out tasks with a minimum of supervision or independently under direction.
- Ability to follow instructions and safely complete activities.
- Public speaking skills – confidence in engaging with the general public.

General Notes

This position will from time to time require work during some evenings, weekends and public holidays to meet the needs of the post.