



## Job Description

### Student Placement – Aviculture and animal training

**Grade:** Early Careers

**Directorate:** Operations

**Location:** WWT Slimbridge Wetlands Centre

**Reporting to:** Deputy Living Collections Manager and Living Collections Supervisor - Theatre

**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. In this role you will be split between the aviculture and theatre sections assisting in all aspects of husbandry and animal training. This placement will provide a rare opportunity to gain experience in a diverse area of animal care as well as developing engagement skills through involvement with our range of talks and presentations. 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. Assisting with the daily care and husbandry of the bird and theatre sections, including feeding, cleaning and enclosure maintenance.
2. Assisting and observing the Living Wetland Theatre team with daily training sessions.
3. Assisting during free flight demonstrations.
4. Will give presentations to the public at our otter exhibit or diving duck area.
5. Observations and recording of animal behaviour.
6. Using training techniques to support the bird sections in their work.
7. Help in administering health treatments.
8. The potential for research experience.
9. Maintaining strict bio-security.
10. Interacting with visitors about WWT, our work and our vision and mission.
11. If you are required to carry out your own research project as part of your qualification, you will be supported to do so.
12. Any other tasks deemed reasonable.

## 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.

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**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.
- Basic understanding of animal behavior and training.
- 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.

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## 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.