



Job Description

Student Placement – Living Collections

Grade: Early Careers

Directorate: Operations

Location: WWT Washington Wetlands Centre

Reporting to: Living Collections Manager

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 the collection, of rare and endangered species from around the world. The collection is continually developing and expanding, so the species you work with will vary as the year progresses. 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 feed presentation, feeding routines and creating animal enrichment.
2. Cleaning animal houses, enclosures, rearing facilities, and ponds, ensuring they are in good repair.
3. Undertaking animal census and recording of daily routines.
4. Vegetation management within enclosures and public areas.
5. Pond and water flow maintenance.
6. Working as part of the centre opening/closing team undertaking tasks to ensure the site is ready for visitors on opening and cleared of visitors on closing.
7. Conducting public feeds, talks and guided tours.
8. Interacting with visitors to provide excellent customer service.
9. Maintaining and improving exhibit fence lines.
10. Assisting with animal handling, health checks and medication.
11. Helping during the breeding season within a controlled breeding plan – nest box management, incubator operation and animal rearing.
12. Record keeping and welfare reporting.
13. Assisting with pest management protocols and camera trap data.
14. Seasonal/occasional tasks such as building shelters and nest boxes, building new enclosures or ponds, and other large team projects.
15. 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.
- 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.
- Ability to work outdoors in all weathers.
- Driving licence

General Notes

This role is full-time (10 days out of 14) and will include weekends and public holidays, as required.