

Animal Section Placement

From gelada and giraffe to grosbeak starling, the animal section at Bristol Zoo Project has a variety of interesting species to work with. It is a challenging and rewarding environment in which to work and learn new skills.

As a sandwich placement student, you would be fully integrated into the keeper team and would learn the fundamentals of daily routines and procedures for husbandry and management.

Summary:

Assist the animal team with animal husbandry responsibilities within the sections across all species. The placement will focus mainly on daily routines, health, and breeding and development of young, but there are also many areas of research that could be undertaken.

During your placement you will spend short periods of time working on different sections, including hoofstock, carnivores, primates, and birds, to get a feeling for how varied keeping work is.

It is also a great opportunity to learn about how the zoo industry operates, some of the wider roles we play in both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation, and how we work to fulfil our mission.

You would have the opportunity to use your time here to focus on a specific area of research relevant to your chosen degree course.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Daily maintenance of the enclosures
- Food preparation and feeding
- Providing a variety of enrichment for species in our care
- Operant Conditioning
- Ensuring good record keeping of relevant husbandry and management information
- Assist with any veterinary procedures if they arise

Skills/qualifications

- Must be a student with a minimum average of 2.1 in Biology or related discipline, between their 2 and 3rd years of university
- Have a strong interest in captive husbandry
- Previous experience is preferred but not essential. Dedication, hard work, and a passion to learn are most important.
- You must be a good team player



Term commitment

This sandwich placement will begin in September 2027. It is expected that the student will remain in post for at least nine months. You would be expected to attend five days per week throughout the course of the placement. This opportunity is only available to those studying at a UK university on a degree programme with a placement year.

If you are interested, please complete the application form below and send this, along with a CV, to research@bzsociety.org.uk. Please put 'Animal Section Placement' along with your full name in the title of the email. The application deadline is Friday 5th February 2027 with interviews occurring in the subsequent weeks.

Please note that as we are a charity, we cannot offer paid placements or accommodation. Please ensure that you are able to fund yourself during this period.

Work Experience / Student Placement Application Form

Personal Details	
Name	
Address	
Email	
Telephone number	
School / College	
Address	
Emergency Contact & Relationship	
Telephone number	

Application Questions

Why would you like to complete work experience / a sandwich placement with Bristol Zoological Society?

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What learning objectives would you like to meet during your placement? How does this fit with your school / course requirements?

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Please describe a time when you have worked as part of a team. What did you enjoy about this?

What achievement are you most proud of and why?

Other Relevant Information

Please use this space to provide any further information in support of your application. (E.g. other relevant skills/experience/interests)

Signature

Date