

UK Conservation Placement:

Bristol Zoological Society has a dedicated UK Conservation team that run a variety of UK-based conservation programmes. Current projects include white-clawed crayfish conservation, Linking-the Levels - species recovery and restoration in South Gloucestershire, and monitoring of the only known population of silky wave moths in England. We also survey at Bristol Zoo Project, where we monitor our resident native species such as bats, badgers, birds, small mammals, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians including our great-crested newt population. In addition, we run an invasive species rapid response and control programme throughout Bristol and Somerset and our Aquatic Water Quality Award (AQUA) project nationally.

As a sandwich placement student, you would be fully integrated into the daily routines and procedures involved in running conservation programmes at Bristol Zoological Society. You will learn a variety of survey techniques involved in native species conservation, plus have hands-on experience of breeding an Endangered species for reintroductions and release.

Summary:

Assist the Bristol Zoological Society's native UK conservation team with their current projects. One of the main areas that you will focus on is assisting with the white-clawed crayfish hatchery located at Bristol Zoo Project.

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

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Daily maintenance of the crayfish hatchery facility.
- Crayfish field work including ark site surveys and monitoring, ark site introductions, berried female collections.
- Field survey work including silky wave moth, reptile, amphibian, small mammal, bird, bat, badger, invertebrate and habitat surveys.
- Habitat restoration work including tasks such as wetland and scrub management and hibernacula creation.
- Data input and analysis.
- Invasive species field work – including survey work and invasive species control / mitigation.
- Communication / outreach involvement – including toad patrols and outreach events.

Skills/qualifications

- Must be a student with a minimum 2.1 in Biology or related discipline, between their 2nd and 3rd years of university
- Have a strong interest in native species conservation
- Good data analysis and record keeping skills

- Native species knowledge and previous survey experience is preferred but not essential.

Term commitment

This sandwich placement will begin in September 2027. It is expected that the student will remain in post until early-July 2028, to cover various field seasons, but a commitment of at least 9 months is required. 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 'UK Conservation Placement' along with your full name in the title of the email. The application deadline is Friday 27th November 2026 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 a sandwich placement with Bristol Zoological Society?

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

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