Zoo Science placement

Full-time 10 month voluntary industrial placement

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is a charity devoted to conservation and education, the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats being the key role of the organisation. Our scientists in the laboratory and field, animal management teams at both zoos and our veterinarians contribute wide-ranging skills and experience to both practical conservation and the scientific research that underpins this work.

Since founding in 1826 as an institution for scientific study, ZSL has had a firm commitment to developing our understanding of animal science. Current staff make active contributions to national and international zoo science organisations; with ZSL strategy focussing on wildlife and people, wildlife health and wildlife back from the brink.

Working within the Evidence-based Animal Care team (EAC, covering aspects of exotic animal research, nutrition, welfare and behaviour management), the Zoo Science placement will:

• Assist with the implementation of our evidence-based management programme, the scope of which covers both ZSL London and ZSL Whipsnade Zoos.
• Carry out behavioural observations and collect relevant data on other topics to inform best practice. This will include recording data, compiling relevant reports and disseminating through appropriate channels.
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Placement opportunities/objectives:
• Opportunity to develop a research project covering one of the priority areas of ZSL – gaining experience in designing a research question, appropriate methodology to answer this question, effective data collection, input and analysis techniques and options for dissemination of project outcomes (including presenting at a National Zoo research conference). This project will occupy the majority of the placement duration.
• Contributing to longitudinal data collection projects, building on the valuable contribution of zoo research.
• Opportunities to get involved with ZSL additional projects, receive relevant training opportunities from experienced staff members as well as gaining an insight into the workings of modern zoos.

Placement details:
• The post is offered on a voluntary basis (with provision for limited expenses to be provided), working full-time and typically Monday–Friday; however this will be flexible depending on the needs of any project and some weekend work may be required.
• Placement will follow typical academic year: 10 months in duration and commencing in September 2023.

Requirements of applicants:
• Must be undertaking an industrial placement year as part of an Undergraduate degree programme.
• Have an understanding of the importance of an evidence-based approach; as well as a clear interest in animal behaviour, conservation and care.
• Be organised and take high levels of pride in your work.
• Experience in the use of standard Microsoft Office software, with awareness of statistical analysis techniques being desirable.
• Be able to arrange own accommodation and transport to/from both London and Whipsnade Zoos.

To apply please submit a CV and covering letter, detailing your experience and interest in the position, to the EAC team at zdresearch@zsl.org by Sunday 15th January 2023. Successful candidates will be contacted soon after this date where arrangements for interview will be made (Feb 2023).