



PAIGNTON
ZOO

LIVING
COASTS
ZOO & AQUARIUM

NEWQUAY
ZOO

Student and voluntary research placement 2019-2020

Zoo-based research



Research in the three zoos is co-ordinated by the Field Conservation and Research Department. The majority of our research is applied, aiming to enhance knowledge and understanding that will lead directly to better practice in all aspects of zoo operations, such as animal husbandry, education delivery and field conservation support. We also sometimes offer opportunities for non-applied research such as investigating the cognitive abilities of different species.

- Applied research themes include environmental enrichment, husbandry training, human-animal interactions and nutrition.
- Non-applied research includes social dynamics, infant development, dominance hierarchies, cognitive understanding and discriminative abilities across a range of zoo species.
- Zoo-based studies may require collection of a variety of data types including behaviour, vocalisations, personality assessment, food intake, temperatures and other environmental data, faecal samples and visitor surveys.
- Zoo-based research involves working closely with other departments in the zoo, particularly the animal, veterinary, education and garden departments.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- *Intensive management for highly threatened bird species*
- *Investigating behavioural responses of animals to visitor experience events*
- *Evaluating population management of captive species*
- *Investigating the behavioural and physiological effect of UVB provision for a range of species*
- *Evaluating the impact of diet changes in a range of species*
- *Evaluating the impact of environmental enrichment in a range of species*



FIELD CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Field Conservation and Research Department members offer diverse expertise.

Key staff involved in zoo-based research include:

Dr Amy Plowman – Statistics and nutrition

Dr Holly Farmer – Evidence-based husbandry and population management

Dr Kathy Baker – Evidence-based husbandry and animal personality

Dr Joanna Newbolt - Evidence-based husbandry and behavioural patterns

Dr Andrew Bowkett – Links to field conservation

POST DESCRIPTION AND DETAILS

Placements provide an exciting opportunity for you to learn more about your specialist subject and how it can be applied in a zoo setting. You will be trained in a variety of research techniques and other transferable skills such as conference speaking. You will agree an individual training plan and be provided with a full training record when you leave.

Whilst at the zoo you will be a member of the Field Conservation and Research Department and will spend the majority of your time collecting, analysing and interpreting data, as part of high quality research projects. You will also be expected to actively contribute to the environmental enrichment, animal training and/or nutrition groups and take part in department and zoo life generally. This can involve giving talks to school groups, presenting at conferences and meetings, helping with on-going projects and general duties.

- Posts are offered on a voluntary basis.
- Most posts are for 10-12 months starting in September. Some 6-month posts are available and may start at other times.
- The working week is 35hrs and times are flexible depending on the needs of particular projects. There are 20 days holiday *p.a. pro rata*
- Free accommodation is available for a small number of posts based at Paignton Zoo and is allocated at the discretion of the WWCT. Other reasonably priced accommodation is available close to the zoos.

HOW TO APPLY

The application form for applying for one of our research placements can be found on our website:

www.wwct.org.uk/research/placements

There are three application forms on the site: one for zoo-based research, one for ecology-based research and one for advocacy research. Please complete and submit the relevant form.

We also require a one-page covering letter explaining why you would like the placement, which should be sent, by email, to the WWCT Secretary trust.secretary@wwct.org.uk

The deadline for applications is 9am on Monday 19th November 2018

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 7th January 2019

Visit our websites www.wwct.org.uk www.paigntonzoo.org.uk www.livingcoasts.org.uk www.newquayzoo.org.uk

The Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, Living Coasts and Newquay Zoo are registered education and scientific charities dedicated to protecting our global wildlife heritage. Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, Totnes Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ4 7EU.