



PAIGNTON
ZOO

LIVING
COASTS
ZOO & AQUARIUM

NEWQUAY
ZOO

Student and voluntary research placement 2019-2020

Advocacy research

Exploring and encouraging positive attitudes and behaviours towards nature conservation and environmental sustainability



The Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust (WWCT) is a registered education, scientific and conservation charity established in 1955 and based in South Devon, UK. The WWCT owns Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, Living Coasts, and Newquay Zoo as well as three nature reserves in South Devon. The WWCT is active at home and abroad working directly and with partner organisations to conserve species and their habitats.



Advocacy research is a new and exciting aspect of zoo research which covers topics of human behaviour research including:

- *Evaluating the impact of educational programmes and visitor engagement activities*
- *Exploring the role of zoos and their in-situ conservation projects in influencing visitor and local community behaviours*
- *Working with external organisations to secure more environmentally sustainable policies and practices*



Some of our current conservation advocacy interests include: promoting the use of sustainable palm oil; championing the establishment and management of UK Marine Conservation Zones; challenging the illegal wildlife trade; implementing and showcasing more sustainable environmental management practices; and delivering advocacy and education programmes to our guests and within our overseas conservation projects.

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. Advocacy research involves working closely with other departments in the zoo, particularly the education and marketing departments.

Given the broad range of the subject area, this area of research is likely to appeal to students from a range of academic disciplines including geography, psychology, sociology and environmental studies.

FIELD CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Field Conservation and Research Department members offer diverse expertise. Key staff involved in advocacy research include:

Susan Warren – Advocacy Officer

Dr Joanna Newbolt – Higher Education Co-ordinator

Steve Nash – Group Head of Education



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 for high quality research projects. You will also be expected to 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 advocacy research, one for zoo-based research and one for ecology-based 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.