

Animal Team Placement

About Us:

Twycross Zoo is a fantastic conservation and education charity and historic organisation that has existed for over 60 years. At the heart of what we do, the reason we exist, is to be an influential conservation and education charity, delivering on our commitments to be guest obsessed and provide world-class animal environments and levels of husbandry. Alongside this, we strive to be an effective charity with a commercial mindset, putting our people at the heart of the organisation.

About the animal team placement:

At Twycross Zoo, we recognise the value of hands-on, real-world experience in supporting career development. Our 10 month work-based learning placements are designed for students undertaking a sandwich year as part of their degree, providing meaningful opportunities to develop practical skills within a professional environment.

The animal team placement sections are:

- **Mammals** (for example: Giraffes, Rhinos, Meerkats, Tiger, Snow Leopard, Goats, Capybara)
- **Birds, Invertebrate and Herptiles** (for example Humboldt penguin, Chilean flamingo, Giant Aldabra tortoise, Fiji banded iguana, Jamaican boa, Marañón frog, Desertas wolf spider)
- **Primates** (for example Red ruffed lemurs, Gibbons, Coppery titi monkey, Golden lion tamarin, Pygmy marmoset, De Brazza's monkey)

For safety reasons, students are **not** permitted to work on the Great Ape section.

Applicants can indicate which animal team they would prefer to focus on during their placement, however due to the nature of the Zoo, some animal sections cover multiple taxa. This means there isn't a team that exclusively looks after hoofstock or birds etc.

In your cover letter you should state your preference from the sections listed above, which we will take into consideration on recruitment.

As part of the placement, students will be supported to develop skills through activities which may include, but not limited to:

- Cleaning animal enclosures and enclosure furnishings
- Assisting with the preparation and distribution of animal diets
- Supporting the preparation, placement and cleaning of enrichment items to promote animal welfare
- Supporting with guest engagement activities such as animal experiences and keeper for a day
- Maintaining keeper areas, such as food preparation rooms and other off show spaces
- Assisting with the upkeep of animal enclosures and public viewing areas to ensure high standards of hygiene, cleanliness and presentation are maintained throughout the section

Observation Opportunities

Where operationally possible, students may have the opportunity to observe:

- Animal training
- Basic veterinary procedures
- Routine health monitoring, such as weighing

These opportunities depend on daily operational requirements and cannot be guaranteed.

Animal Interaction

The animals in our care do not tolerate or enjoy close human contact. This placement does **not** involve handling, grooming or playing with animals. Applicants seeking hands on animal interaction should consider whether this placement meets their expectations.

Guest Engagement Expectations

Twycross Zoo is open to guests 363 days per year. Students will have opportunities to contribute to guest engagement activities to support positive guest engagement while onsite.

This includes:

- Answering public enquiries in a friendly, professional and helpful manner
- Assisting with guest activities and events when required

Students you will be supported to develop a guest focused approach at all times, contributing to an excellent experience.

Training and Development

This 10 month placement also includes a structured formal learning programme designed to develop practical and professional skills relevant to working in a modern zoo environment. Sessions will introduce a wide range of topics, some examples include zoo licencing, exhibit design, nutrition, ethics, EEP management, business and conservation education.

Placement requirements:

- Aged 18 years old or above
- You must be enrolled on an animal or conservation based further or higher education course with the requirement to undertake a placement for an academic year in industry.
- Be genuinely interested in all aspects of animal husbandry and conservation, some limited animal experience is desirable
- Be willing to engage with all forms of learning and make the most of the opportunities provided
- Willing and able to work individually and as part of a team
- Placements follow a fulltime learning schedule of 5 days per week in line with zoo operational hours.
- Be able to financially support yourself for the duration of the placement

Additional Information

Placements are scheduled across 5 days from 7 in line with operational needs, which may include weekends.

This placement forms part of a formal further or higher education programme and is designed as a structured learning experience. It does not constitute employment and is focused on development and learning rather than undertaking a defined role within the team.

Please note that these placements are unpaid and no accommodation is provided. Applicants should consider their personal circumstances before applying

Places are granted following an application and an assessment process.

Why Join Us?

You'll be part of a friendly, enthusiastic team driven by inspiring and engaging guests during their visits to Twycross Zoo. As a registered charity, every member of the team plays a direct role in our mission to protect wildlife and inspire future generations.

You will be joining us at an exciting time for the future of Twycross Zoo, across the next 12 months, construction will be completed on the Global Conservation Centre following a £25 million grant. This is a state-of-the-art facility opening in 2027 to house various endangered species across all taxa. The Global Conservation Centre will support vital work around species conservation.

It will bring together experts in conservation science and train the next generation of conservationists, whilst offering researchers from around the world the opportunity to study a great variety endangered species, in naturalistic complex environments. The facilities will include a lecture theatre, classrooms, and laboratories alongside new animal habitats.

You can find more information here: [Twycross Zoo announces £25million investment to create 'Global Conservation Centre'](#)

If you're looking to take the first steps into a role within the world of modern zoos where the skills you learn genuinely make a difference, this could be the perfect next step.

Equal opportunities

We are committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates.

Right to work (or equivalent wording)

Applicants must be eligible to undertake a placement in the UK.

Data protection

Your personal data will be processed in line with our privacy policy.

How to Apply

To apply for an Animal team work-based learning placement, please send your application form (includes the animal team sections in preference order) on our website to human.resources@twycrosszoo.org by 19 August 2026.

