



STUDENT PLACEMENT GUIDE

Placement Policy & Guidelines

- ❖ At Blackpool Zoo, we offer experience opportunities for students details of which can be found on our website and in this guide
- ❖ If you are applying for an academic year in industry you must be completing a further or higher education course which includes a sandwich year
- ❖ If you are applying for an animal or education team support student role you must be completing a relevant or animal or education course
- ❖ Please note you **MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 18** to apply for a placement.
- ❖ All of our placement opportunities are voluntary and there are limited positions available throughout the year.
- ❖ Support student placements will incur an admin fee of **£15.00** and require a **£10.00** deposit for a vest.
- ❖ Blackpool Zoo does not provide accommodation for placement students
- ❖ Due to potential seasonal changes in public transport to the zoo, it is advised that students ensure they are able to travel to the zoo including weekend and bank holiday dates



A YEAR IN INDUSTRY (FULL-TIME) Animal, Education & Conservation



This placement is for students undertaking a higher education degree who want to take a 9- or 12-month placement within their academic study as part of a **sandwich year**.

Students have the opportunity to rotate across the animal and education departments within the zoo supporting:

- ❖ Education & Research team
- ❖ Elephant and carnivore team
- ❖ Mammal team
- ❖ Bird and Events team
- ❖ Enrichment sub team
- ❖ Animal Health
- ❖ Conservation & Native Species

The placement also provides instructed workshops and time allocated for a personal research project as well as opportunities for outreach such as conferences.

Upon successful completion of the placement students will receive a written reference, certificate and portfolio

Duration	9 or 12 months (September-June/September)
Rota	Full-time (5 days out of 7, including weekends and bank holidays)
Hours	8am – 4pm

A YEAR IN INDUSTRY (FULL-TIME) Marketing & Design



Duration	9 or 12 months (September-June/September)
Rota	Full-time (Monday-Friday)
Hours	9am – 5pm

This placement is for students undertaking a relevant marketing, graphic design, or photography course who want to take a 9- or 12-month placement within their academic study as part of a **sandwich year**.

The placement will provide students the opportunity to support our marketing and visual design team with tasks such as:

- ❖ Collecting content for social media
- ❖ Assisting on the zoo's informal education including signage and advertisements
- ❖ Taking photographs across the zoo to be used in future content
- ❖ Research for interpretation across the zoo

The placement also provides instructed workshops and time allocated for a personal research project.

Upon successful completion of the placement students will receive a written reference, certificate and portfolio



SUMMER ANIMAL TEAM SUPPORT STUDENT (FULL-TIME)

Duration	3 months (June-August)
Rota	Full-time (5 days out of 7, including weekends and bank holidays)
Hours	8am – 4pm

This placement is aimed at students wishing to gain experience in the industry whilst completing a relevant animal course. The placement will provide students the opportunity to support the animal team with tasks such as:

- ❖ Cleaning animal enclosures
- ❖ Food preparation
- ❖ Enclosure maintenance
- ❖ Animal support tasks such as helping with food deliveries
- ❖ Browse collection

Upon successful completion of the placement students will receive a feedback form and a certificate .



SUMMER EDUCATION TEAM SUPPORT STUDENT (FULL-TIME)

Duration	3 months (June-August)
Rota	Full-time (5 days out of 7, including weekends and bank holidays)
Hours	9am – 5pm

This placement is aimed at students completing a relevant animal or education course.

The placement will provide students the opportunity to support a full-time education officer with tasks such as:

- ❖ Assisting with practical learning programmes
- ❖ Assisting with conservation initiatives and events
- ❖ Supporting education sessions
- ❖ Supporting visitor engagement and animal interaction
- ❖ Supporting nature schools and Wild Beginnings clubs for children
- ❖ Helping to monitor walk-through exhibits
- ❖ Interacting with visitors

Upon successful completion of the placement students will receive written feedback and a certificate of completion.

SUMMER RESEARCH TEAM SUPPORT STUDENT (FULL-TIME)



This placement is aimed at students completing a relevant further or higher education animal course.

The placement will provide students the opportunity to assist with tasks such as:

- ❖ Data collection for the zoo's internal research projects
- ❖ Enrichment observations
- ❖ Data inputting for internal research
- ❖ Opportunity to collect their own research pending approval from the research department

Upon successful completion of the placement students will receive written feedback and a certificate of completion.

Duration	3 months (June-August)
Rota	Full-time (5 days out of 7, including weekends and bank holidays)
Hours	9am – 5pm

ANIMAL TEAM SUPPORT STUDENT (PART-TIME)

This placement is aimed at students completing a relevant animal course.

The placement will provide students the opportunity to support a full-time experienced keeper with tasks such as:

- ❖ Cleaning animal enclosures
- ❖ Food preparation
- ❖ Enclosure maintenance
- ❖ Animal support tasks
- ❖ Browse collection

Upon successful completion of the placement students will receive written feedback and a certificate of completion.



Duration	4 months (September-December OR January-April)
Rota	Part-time (Saturdays and Sundays)
Hours	8am – 4pm



Thank you! We look forward to hearing from you soon

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the zoo at:

Email: student.liaison@blackpoolzoo.org.uk

Tel: 01253 830840

Student Placement Guide created by Blackpool Zoo Research Department

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