



Blackpool Zoo Keeper Academy: Participant Information

Blackpool Zoo Keeper Academy is an animal based course for young people aged 15-17 years old. The course will run over 5 sessions (either 5 Sundays or 5 days Monday to Friday over holidays), from 10.30am-3pm, including theory sessions on working with different exotic species as well as over 20 hours of practical experience with a range of zoo animals including invertebrates, reptiles, primates, large mammals and elephants.

The course is designed for those who wish to pursue a career with animals and require practical experience to enhance their application. Those who wish to become vets, vet nurses, zookeepers or complete other animal based studies will benefit from this exciting course.

Supported at all times by our education team, students will complete an evidence portfolio of their work. At the end of the 5 sessions a certificate is presented at a graduation along with a reference statement confirming that they have completed all tasks to a satisfactory level.

2019 Timetable

Saturday Schools – 5 days (Sundays)	
Course 1	28 th April – 26 th May
Summer Schools – 5 days (Monday to Friday for 1 week)	
Course 2	29 th July – 2 nd August
Course 3	5 th August – 9 th August

Applications

Places for each course are limited to 12 students aged 15-17 years old.

Cost

£225 inc VAT. This must be paid in full to secure your place on one of the courses. This can be paid in instalments but full payment must be made 30 days before the course begins. All payments are non-refundable.

Discounts

Included in the price is a discount card for the zoo cafe and main shop valid for the period of the course. Each student will be given four entry tickets for family or friends to attend the zoo and graduation on the final day of the course.

Graduation

On the final day of the course, family and friends of the students are invited to attend the Blackpool Zoo Keeper Academy Graduation. Certificates will be presented by a member of the zoo management team and there will be a short presentation about the course. Four entry tickets will be given for each student to be used by their family or friends on the graduation day.

Our Responsibility

We have carefully selected practical tasks that are enjoyable yet appropriate for a group of young people. We risk assess all tasks and training is given to all participants. This allows you to gain exciting experiences of working in a zoological collection in a safe and managed way.

Our education team has many years of teaching within a zoo environment. Many of our learning programmes involve practical tasks and we have extensive prior experience delivering practical based tasks involving a range of different species.

Other Participants

Each Zoo Keeper Academy course is designed for 12 students. Many will be like you and want to pursue a career working with animals in a variety of different fields. This course is designed to assist young people to gain practical experience in a zoological collection. The whole course is supervised by a member of the education team to ensure an enjoyable, yet safe experience for all participants.

Behaviour

We expect exemplary behaviour from all participants, towards each other, zoo visitors, the education and keeping staff as well as our animals!

Removal from the course

Blackpool Zoo reserves the right to remove a participant from the course for:

- Persistent lateness (more than 3 times)
- Unsociable behaviour
- Endangering themselves and others
- Compromising animal welfare

Illness

If for any reason you can not attend then please phone the education department on 01253 830805 **before** 9.30am on the day of the course and leave a message. Please state your name, contact telephone number and the reason you are unable to attend.

Payment

Full payment is required to secure your place on the course. Cheques are made payable to 'Blackpool Zoo'. Alternatively you can pay by credit/debit card at the zoo reception or by phone 01253 830801. Payments are non-refundable.

Smoking

Smoking will not be allowed for the duration of the day 10.30am – 3pm.

Food

You will need to bring your own packed lunch and drinks for each day of the course. Food is also available to purchase within the zoo café. You will be allowed free time at lunch to eat and explore the zoo.

Personal clothing and equipment

Please make sure you bring the following items every week. If you are unsure – please ring 01253 83805 before the course starts.

Wellington boots

Sensible footwear – e.g work boots

Light waterproof jacket

Waterproof trousers (optional)

Dark trousers (not jeans)

Dark top – dress in layers so you can remove as appropriate when working

Stationary – pens/pencils

(A folder for your work will be provided on day 1)

Evaluation and Assessment

To aid the constant improvement of the Zoo Keeper Academy course we will ask you to fill out an evaluation form at the end of the course.

We require you to fill in all the worksheets, diary and photographic entries before the end of the course. We will then send you a certificate of completion and a written reference stating that you have fulfilled all the aims of the course. You will also receive an e-mail with a link to all the photos taken on the course. You will have 4 weeks to save and download these pictures before they are removed from the site.

You will be able to keep the portfolio as evidence of your time at Blackpool Zoo and hopefully use it at future university or college interviews and to aid your career with animals.



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t-shirt now. Hoodies
£25.00, T-shirts
£10.00**