



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Living Collections Placement

Why do we need you?

At WWT we shape unforgettable experiences. We believe the best way for people to understand and connect to wetlands is to experience them, so we bring awe-inspiring nature up close and let it do the talking.

We are looking to recruit a volunteer placement for 12-month period for 5 days a week. The placement is within the Living Collections team, and is great opportunity for someone looking to gain or build on their practical animal care experience, increase their animal behaviour, and welfare knowledge.

The role will involve the day to day care of the animals in the collection, of rare and endangered species from around the world, including Storks, Cranes, Flamingos and Otters. As well as maintaining and developing exhibits within the site, in order to improve welfare standards for our animals, and enhance the visitor experience, and delivering excellent customer service, by developing communication, and presentation skills.

The practical involvement and knowledge gained in a placement would be invaluable experience for future animal or conservation based careers. Many of our volunteers have gone on to work in animal care, and in conservation projects around the world.

Who will be responsible for your role?

Living Collections Manager

Where will you be based?

Martin Mere Living Collections

How much time will it take?

5 days per week 8.00am – 4.30pm, with 25 days annual leave, plus bank holidays - pro rata.
Placement to start in September 2022 and run to August 2023.

What will you be doing?

- Daily feed preparation, feeding routines and creating animal enrichment.
- Cleaning animal houses, enclosures, rearing facilities, equipment, and ponds and ensuring they are in good repair.
- Undertaking animal census and recording of daily routines.
- Enclosure and pond maintenance
- Vegetation management within enclosures and public areas.
- Maintaining and improving fence lines, shelters, and buildings.
- Conducting public feeds, talks, and guided tours.

- Interacting with visitors to provide excellent customer service.
- Assisting with animal handling, health checks, and medication
- Helping during the breeding season within a controlled breeding plan – nest box management, incubator operation and animal rearing.
- Record keeping and animal health and welfare reporting.
- Assisting with pest management protocols and camera trap data.

Who are we looking for?

- Practical experience in animal care.
- Someone who has studied or is studying animal management.
- Able to follow instructions and safely complete activities.
- Able to be an effective member of a large team.
- Ability to take initiative and to work independently when appropriate to do so.
- Good people skills.
- Exhibit a can do, enthusiastic attitude to your work.
- Public speaking skills desirable.
- Physically fit and able.
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather.
- Driving licence would be advantageous.
- You need to be over 18 years to carry out this role.

How will you benefit?

- This is an excellent opportunity to work within a BIAZA member zoological collection.
- Gaining invaluable animal husbandry knowledge and hands on experience.
- Working in the fresh air with friendly, like-minded people.
- Exercise and all-round fitness.
- You will be able to become part of the small but friendly living collections team.
- Training in use of tools, maintenance vehicles, animal care/handling and safe working practices on site.
- You will be involved in the workings of this centre and will therefore be able to take up any opportunities that become available.
- Discount is available in the cafe and shop for all volunteers on the day they volunteer.
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge

General Notes:

This position will require you to work 10 days out of 14, and will include weekends and public holidays, as required.

It will be important to present a smart, welcoming and professional image to all visitors and to be sensitive to their needs.

We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site. There is the option of rent free accommodation, on site.

This position is voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

How to Apply:

Please go to www.wwt.org.uk/join-and-support/volunteering/volunteer-placements/ for full details of this role and an application form. If you have any problems locating the information or filling out the application form please email amy.hannan@wwt.org.uk.

Closing Date:

Please return all completed application forms by Friday 3rd December. After this date successful applicants will be invited to a virtual interview (potential date 13th Dec) & decisions should be made by the 15th December with the aim of starting the placement in September 2022.