

Internships within Jersey Zoo's animal department

Internships are available in Jersey Zoo's three animal husbandry departments:

Birds – Focussing on wetland birds and soft-bills, our bird department has an international reputation for its contributions to the conservation of Pink Pigeons and numerous other threatened species. It has pioneered techniques now used by bird conservation programmes worldwide, and closer to home with our reintroduction programme for Red-billed Choughs.

Herpetology – Caring for our reptile and amphibian species, this department plays a vital role in recovery programmes for some of the world's most threatened species, from the Ploughshare Tortoises of Madagascar, to Bojer's Skinks from Mauritius. This department has a particularly active involvement with many of Durrell's field conservation programmes.

Mammals - This department cares for a small but special range of primates and small mammals. Some of these species (e.g. Lowland Gorillas) are very familiar, while others such as the Aye-ayes, and Black Lion Tamarins) are less frequently seen in zoos. This department is closely involved with our public engagement work, sharing our love of nature with visitors.

Interns will gain valuable insight into the husbandry and biology of a wide variety of species, many of which are kept as part of coordinated, conservation-focussed breeding programmes. Many of these species are on show to the public, and others are kept behind the scenes. Interns get to see first-hand how our small but very busy husbandry departments are run and get the chance to experience the realities of working within a conservation-oriented zoo.

What might I be doing? Tasks will vary between departments and seasons, but may include:

Activity	Understanding/Knowledge gained
Daily upkeep of public areas and exhibits as well as daily husbandry routines for off-show enclosures; this includes e.g., changing substrates, spraying, maintaining ponds, cleaning food and drink bowls etc.	Understanding the husbandry needs of a diversity of species. Implementing correct cleaning techniques and, in general, applying very close attention to detail. Understanding biosecurity protocols and techniques and the importance of good hygiene for preventing spread of disease incl. zoonosis.
Food preparation and feeding	Understanding nutritional requirements of various species and individuals. How to prepare feeds for various species and how to feed different individuals or groups. Monitoring animals as they feed and understanding feeding behaviours.
Care of food insect colonies	Knowledge of breeding and care of a variety of insect species used to feed our insectivorous species. Importance and adjustment of nutritional quality of diets.
Cleaning enclosures, equipment and other materials used daily	Appropriate cleaning and disinfection equipment and methods.
Maintaining and renewing enclosures (e.g., new perching, substrates, plants)	Understanding the environmental requirements of species, and maintaining these with careful eye for detail. Assistance with enclosure design and

	provision of safe environments for species. Might at times include some use of tools and practical skills.
Monitoring the behaviour and health of animals	Understanding aspects of the biology and behaviour of species and the signs for identification of potential problems and how to remedy these.
Moving animals between enclosures (where required)	Correct capture and restraint techniques.
Observation of veterinary procedures	Various, as and when possible.
Observing care of young	Incubation techniques and husbandry of juveniles

To complement your practical learning, there are also monthly lectures and learning sessions, exploring key concepts in species conservation and animal husbandry.

Would I be good for this placement?

You should ideally be studying or have studied a relevant college degree or diploma and/or have some knowledge of working with exotic animals although previous experience is not strictly necessary as all training will be provided. A thoughtful interest in species conservation is a distinct advantage. Good verbal and written English communication skills are required.

Our keeper teams are extremely dedicated, and they will expect similar levels of enthusiasm and interest in someone working in their department.



A conscientious, constant, and reliable approach to the work is paramount, as would be an active approach to learning anything besides the daily husbandry skills, if you are interested and want to make the most of your stay. Be ready to ask questions and show enthusiasm!

You will need to have a good level of health and fitness. Placements in the mammal and bird departments require you to be willing to work outdoors in challenging weather. In the herpetology department you will need to be able to work for prolonged periods in hot and humid environments. There will be no work with venomous or poisonous species. You will be expected to work with our insect breeding colonies.

Learn more about the species you could work with: Some (but not all) of the species we work with are profiled on our website: www.durrell.org/visit-jersey-zoo/meet-our-animals/