



Level 3 Certificate in

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# **THE MANAGEMENT OF ZOO AND AQUARIUM ANIMALS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME 2021-22



EUROPEAN  
PROFESSIONAL  
ZOOKEEPER  
QUALIFICATION  
FRAMEWORK

**SPARSHOLT**  
COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE

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# WELCOME

The course is a partnership between the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) and Sparsholt College Hampshire. It is a 3 year programme enrolled upon in year segments, delivered by distance learning mode and as such, it is designed for people already actively volunteering in the zoo and aquarium community in a Keeper role. However, if during or after the course, Volunteers gain a paid Keeper/ Aquarist role there is then the possibility to 'top up' with two additional units, to receive a City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma qualification and certificate for DMZAA. This course is therefore at Certificate Level 3 and is Pass only, with a full City & Guilds Digital Credential upon completion. The course assignments, materials and support are otherwise the same as the full Diploma course and are also mapped to the European Professorial Zookeeper Qualification Framework, developed with EAZA.

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## COURSE CONTENT | MANDATORY UNITS

### Year 1

- Unit 1** ▶ Introduction to the Role of Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 2** ▶ Research in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 3** ▶ Education and Learning in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 4** ▶ Conservation and Collection Planning in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 5** ▶ Enclosure Management in Zoos and Aquariums

### Year 2

- Unit 6** ▶ Principles of Breeding in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 7** ▶ Animal Transfers, Records and Health in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 8** ▶ Nutrition in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 9** ▶ Horticulture in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 10** ▶ Ethics and Welfare in Zoos and Aquariums

### Year 3

- Unit 32** ▶ Training and Enrichment in Zoos and Aquariums



# COURSE CONTENT | OPTIONAL UNITS

Candidates should select **five** optional units of their choice.

## Year 3

- Unit 12** ▷ Management of Invertebrates in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 13** ▷ Management of Freshwater Fish in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 14** ▷ Management of Live Food Culture in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 15** ▷ Management of Marine Fish in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 16** ▷ Management of Elasmobranchs in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 17** ▷ Management of Coral Reef Aquariums in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 18** ▷ Management of Aquatic Mammals in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 19** ▷ Management of Chelonia and Crocodylians in Zoos
- Unit 20** ▷ Management of Snakes and Lizards in Zoos
- Unit 21** ▷ Management of Amphibians in Zoos and Aquariums
- Unit 22** ▷ Management of Aviary Birds in Zoos
- Unit 23** ▷ Management of Aquatic Birds in Zoos
- Unit 24** ▷ Management of Raptors in Zoos
- Unit 25** ▷ Management of Paddock Birds in Zoos
- Unit 26** ▷ Management of Primates in Zoos
- Unit 27** ▷ Management of Small Mammals in Zoos
- Unit 28** ▷ Management of Carnivores in Zoos
- Unit 29** ▷ Management of Ungulates in Zoos
- Unit 30** ▷ Management of Elephants in Zoos
- Unit 33** ▷ Transportation in Zoos and Aquariums

These units are themed into **aquarist, herpetology, birds, mammals** and **invertebrate** specialisms. Please contact the College for further details.

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## FEES

This course is usually self-funded where a 10% deposit is payable at point of application.

The remainder is payable when the course starts and can be paid in a lump sum for the year, or by monthly instalments via our online store. Sparsholt College administers the City & Guilds registration process and course delivery on behalf of BIAZA.

### **Year 1 Costs: £840**

Includes £700 course fee and + £140 one-off City & Guilds registration fee, lasting five years.

### **Optional Residential Block: £130**

Covers accommodation Sunday PM – Friday AM at £26 per night. Colleagues who can share a twin room will be charged £100 per person for the week. Food costs must be met by the student whilst on site at approximately £20 per day, for three meals.

### **Year 2 Costs: £700**

### **Year 3 Costs: £1,050**

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## COURSE DELIVERY

Each candidate will be assigned to the nearest Regional Centre to their collection and the corresponding Regional Co-ordinator, whose role is to ensure smooth running of the programme. They are responsible for conducting tutorials, launching assignments, acting as a point of contact for information and support, following up on assignment feedback and preparing the venue for supervising the national test.

All students within a particular region must begin the course by attending an Induction event online via Microsoft Teams, when the course content is explained, course materials provided and key personnel identified. These events will mark the point of registration on the course and will normally take place in the second week of September of each academic year. They also mark the point of enrolment to the course for that year which is checked annually, to ensure progression is appropriate.

The course is run using electronic technology via a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where resources and assignments are available. Submitted assignments are uploaded to the VLE and marked electronically by a panel of industry experts. In addition an 'Open Athens' account is provided to all candidates to remotely access the library and its wealth of electronic books, journals and media. Therefore, candidates should be aware that access to a computer, reliable Internet and an email account is essential.

Course content and outcomes are guided directly by BIAZA and as such remain updated for relevance to real Zookeepers and Aquarists 'on the ground'.



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## RESIDENTIAL BLOCK

An optional five day residential block for Year 1 students is convened at Sparsholt College. Two identical blocks are arranged each year in mid-September and one in mid-October. Students may choose to attend one of these and the arrangements for this are made on application to the course, if a student opts to attend in person. Students can look forward to a series of workshops and lectures from leading industry experts that help guide assignment work in Units 1 – 10 especially, and also to encourage zoo networking and professional development. We recognise that this may not be an option for a volunteering student and so all materials and recorded sessions are shared online after the event for all as well. However, attending in person enables networking and discursive elements of the learning process.

The week's purpose is to reinforce learning which is difficult to deliver at a distance, e.g. computerised recording systems, ethics and welfare, records and movement paperwork, introduction to nutrition and health and safety, role of horticulture in zoos and aquariums and use of electronic resources.

Accommodation for this week in our onsite hotel, is available on a first come first served basis with Diploma students taking priority as Residential is compulsory to this study route. Alternative accommodation is possible to arrange privately in near by Winchester should the onsite provision be full for your chosen week.

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## ASSESSMENT

Each unit will be assessed by one written assignment which are graded at Pass, Merit or Distinction and there are five core assignments to be completed in Year 1 and five in Year 2, with a further six in Year 3. It is expected that each assignment will take, on average, about 30 hours to complete and should be written at Level 3 (A Level equivalent) standard for submission. Assessment in the third year is by a panel of taxonomic specialists who then provide detailed feedback on written work via the VLE – as in Years 1 & 2.

The overall grade of the course is Pass/Fail but the specific grades gained are 'banked' ready for later use should a student become eligible to top up to the full Diploma qualification.

In addition, candidates will also sit a National Test at the end of Year 2 which is in two parts; one with questions on units 1 – 5 and the second with questions on units 6 – 10. The test is scheduled on the same day at all centres across the UK and Ireland and is comprised of information supplied in the online learning materials provided for the course.

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# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## Key requirements

- ▷ Actively volunteering in a role as a Keeper or Aquarist, in a licensed zoo/aquarium, for an absolute minimum of a day a week. (We recommend at least two full days per week in order to gain the necessary level of understanding and access to successfully complete assignments).
- ▷ IT literacy and reliable access to a computer and internet.
- ▷ Formal school education completed with a satisfactory level of qualification (GCSE grade A-C or 9-4).
- ▷ Candidates with Irish qualifications should have a leaving certificate with science options at Higher Level.
- ▷ Candidates with Scottish qualifications should have a National Level 3 of 4 in relevant subjects
- ▷ Able to produce written work in the English language at A Level equivalent standard.
- ▷ Working in paid role as a Keeper/Aquarist in a licensed zoo/aquarium (a bespoke programme for active Keeper/Aquarist volunteers is available)

## Desirable

- ▷ Understanding of science equivalent to grades A-C (9-4) at GCSE.
- ▷ Understanding of basic research and referencing using the Harvard system.

Candidates may already have completed vocational courses (Advanced National Certificate in Animal Management or Extended Diploma in Animal Management). Additionally, others may have completed HE courses (Foundation Degrees in Animal Management, or BSc in Animal Management or Zoology).

Application forms are made available in February/March, obtained from Regional Co-ordinators and returned to them for approval, to be returned to the college for processing by the end of May each year, in readiness for Induction. Please note your collection is also required to countersign the application to confirm your role.

Please contact the College Part-time Admissions for details of your nearest Regional Co-ordinator or an application pack on [DMZAA@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:DMZAA@sparsholt.ac.uk)



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## APPLICATIONS

For application and residential booking forms, please ask your Supervisor or email [DMZAA@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:DMZAA@sparsholt.ac.uk). Please state the animal collection which you are affiliated to, so you can also be directed to your Regional Co-ordinator.

For more information on the course specification, delivery and outcomes please contact the course manager [penny.hounsome@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:penny.hounsome@sparsholt.ac.uk).

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## SPARSHOLT COLLEGE

Sparsholt College Hampshire has been established for over 100 years, so we have a very wide expertise and experience in the land-based sector.

Over the years, the breadth and diversity of the subjects have widened, student numbers have grown and Sparsholt has evolved into one of the largest land-based colleges in the country. We achieved our zoo license in 2006.

Sparsholt College's association with Zookeeper training began in April 2002 when the Advanced National Certificate for the Management of Zoo Animals (ANCMZA) was developed with City & Guilds for the Federation of Zoos and Aquariums (now BIAZA). In 2010 the ANCMZA became the DMZAA following revalidation. In 2017 a further revalidation with City & Guild's was completed which will run until 2024.

The College has strong connections with wildlife and conservation organisations and specifically, it is a full member of the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums and is the administrating College for BIAZA's trainee Zookeeper qualification. The courses offered continue to be led by BIAZA in their structure and development and continually updated to remain fit for purpose in the industry.

An international programme was developed in 2012, and a course for Volunteers in 2017. In 2018 the launch of the National Zoo Academy at Sparsholt College saw the formal recognition of the full suite of zoo and aquarium related courses that are available at the college – including sixteen years of DMZAA qualifying Zookeepers and Aquarists from across the UK and Ireland.

For full details of other zoo related programmes please contact the College.

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## CONTACT

See back cover.

## FIND OUT MORE

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Penny Hounsome

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ZOO ANIMAL STUDIES**

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Ian Sortwell

**ADMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR  
(HIGHER EDUCATION)**

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