



Level 3 Diploma in

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

INTERNATIONAL DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME 2021/22



EUROPEAN  
PROFESSIONAL  
ZOOKEEPER  
QUALIFICATION  
FRAMEWORK

**SPARSHOLT**  
COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE

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# WELCOME

The International DMZAA course is a partnership between the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) and Sparsholt College Hampshire. It is a 2 year programme delivered by distance learning mode.

As such, it is designed for people already working in the zoo and aquarium community in a paid Keeper or Aquarist role. On successful completion of the course, candidates will receive a City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma qualification and certificate.

The course is also mapped to the European Professorial Zookeeper Qualification Framework (EPZQF) developed with EAZA. Senior zoo and aquarium leaders may like to note that: Provision of staff training and skills in welfare monitoring are highly valued during both the BIAZA and EAZA accreditation processes.

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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
- 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 2

- Unit 11** ▶ Animal Research Project in Zoos or Aquariums
- Unit 31** ▶ Specialist Husbandry Portfolio in Zoos or Aquariums
- Unit 32** ▶ Training and Enrichment in Zoos and Aquariums



# COURSE CONTENT | OPTIONAL UNITS

Candidates should select **five** optional units of their choice to gain the full qualification.

## Year 2

- 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

Tuition fees are paid in full for each year of the course either by the student directly, or their collection in some circumstances. Where this happens, learners may be required to contract to work for an agreed time period after completing the course.

### Year 1 Costs:

- ▶ **EU countries** £1,400 + one off City & Guilds £140 registration fee, lasting five years: £1,540
- ▶ **Non-EU countries** £1,900 + one off City & Guilds £140 registration fee, lasting five years: £2,040 (includes recorded full sessions of face-to-face teaching from the UK based Residential Event)

### Year 2 Costs:

**EU countries:** £1,400. **Non-EU countries:** £1,900.

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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. In some circumstances a candidate in a new country to the course will be assigned directly to the course manager at Sparsholt.

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 either November (Riga centre) or March (UAE centre) of each year.

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 regular 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' and the course operates in English as the spoken and written language. Where subjects cover legislation international students are still required to learn the BIAZA/UK based case; but are encouraged to compare this to their local situation as well.



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## ASSESSMENT

Each core unit will be assessed by one written assignment – with ten assignments to be completed in Year 1 and eight in Year 2. 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, in English, for submission.

In addition, candidates will also sit a National Test at the end of Year 1 (usually in the first week of September of Year 2) which is in two parts; one with questions on units 1 – 5 and the second with questions on units 6 – 10.

Assessment of written work in the second year is by a panel of taxonomic specialists and students select specific options to study. In addition, students will carry out a research project in a related subject of their own choosing and create an electronic portfolio of evidence of their practical skills - which is also remotely viewable for anyone in receipt of the secure link, anywhere in the world, during and after the course.

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## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### Key requirements

- ▶ IT literacy and reliable access to a computer and internet
- ▶ Formal school education completed with a satisfactory level of qualification (Equivalent to UK GCSE grade A-C or 9-4)
- ▶ Use of English at the equivalent to UK A Level standard
- ▶ Working in paid role as a Keeper/Aquarist in a licensed zoo/aquarium

### Desirable

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

Candidates may already have other qualifications and experience. Application forms are made available in October from Regional Co-ordinators and returned to them for approval 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.

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# APPLICATIONS

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).

For application enquiries, application forms and to locate your Regional Coordinator please email [DMZAA@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:DMZAA@sparsholt.ac.uk). Please state the animal collection you work at and in which country, so that we can assist with your application smoothly. Currently there are two established International DMZAA Centres (see below) although applications can be accepted from other locations.

**The college is always open to applicants from any country, but the current established centres are:**

- ▷ Al Bustan Zoological Centre in the UAE, which has an induction in March/April.
- ▷ Riga Zoo in Latvia, which has an induction in November.

Applications should please be returned to the College, via your Regional Coordinator, by 31st January for Al Bustan and 30th September for Riga, to allow time for processing before Induction events.

The course is confirmed on an annual basis according to student recruitment and ability to deliver in the International location. Zoo and aquarium leaders wishing to investigate the course for their staff, especially if working towards EAZA accreditation, are encouraged to contact Penny Hounsome, the course manager, to discuss.

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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 licence 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

Penny Hounsome

**CURRICULUM LEADER  
ZOO ANIMAL STUDIES**

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01962 797456

Ian Sortwell

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

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**SPARSHOLT**  
COLLEGE GROUP

 **THE  
NATIONAL ZOO**  
— ACADEMY —