



**FIRE
IT UP**

 **Apprenticeships**

ZOOKEEPER/AQUARIST APPRENTICESHIP

Delivery Plan

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The programme is delivered over 24 months.

Apprentices will be required to attend Sparsholt College 10 times (5 times per year) for face-to-face theory workshops to include practical application, where they will have a chance to learn through 8 subject-based topics.

A range of materials and tasks will be set and monitored by industry experts throughout.

Each topic block will have:

- 1 face-to-face session at Sparsholt College
- At least 1 virtual Teams session (to be attended from the workplace)
- An introductory video from the tutor
- A handbook
- Suggestions of evidence to gather
- A mixture of tasks and reading
- Template portfolio section for each topic marked by an Industry Expert
- An assessed question set; to explore and submit

Week	Block schedule
1	Enrolment
2	Pre-induction
3	Induction
4	Aims of Collections overview
5	Ethics of Collections
6-9	Taster Sessions (for each aim)
10	Starting on Your Career Path
11-18	Topic Block 1: Enclosure Management and Servicing
19 - 26	Topic Block 2: The Professional Keeper or Aquarist
27- 34	Topic Block 3: Health and Welfare
35 -42	Topic Block 4: Animal Behaviour and Training
43 - 50	Topic Block 5: Feeding and Nutrition
51 - 58	Topic Block 6: Handling and Movement
59 - 66	Topic Block 7: Breeding and Conservation
67 - 74	Topic Block 8: Customer Care, Visitor Experience and Learning
75 - 82	Preparation for Gateway
83	Gateway Sign off and End Point Assessment Booking Period

FROM INDUCTION

Range of Learning Materials

- Full handbook for each of the eight subject topics covered – accompanying BIAZA approved resources from our National Zoo Academy
- Video introduction with industry experts for each topic
- Materials prepared by highly experienced staff
- Mixture of online and in-person delivery
- Ability to specialise in the animals that the learner is passionate about
- Remote access to online Library with thousands of journals, e-books and support from the librarians

Regular Tutorial Support

- Experienced tutorial support from the College – with 19 years of Zookeeper and Aquarist training experience
- Access to leading employment specialists to guide the learner's career development
- Employer-student-College collaboration for best possible outcomes
- Clear and open communication on progress and the learner's Gateway readiness
- Remote learner access to their own tutorial notes and registration systems
- Regular feedback on performance to both student and employer

Taught Sessions

- Ten expert-taught on-site sessions – with activities and 'take aways' from each day
- Expert session leaders from the industry
- Unique networking and collaboration opportunities
- Chance to learn how other collections manage the same desirable outcomes
- Practical hands-on activities on the day
- Access to a fully equipped and staffed College campus
- A chance to get direct face-to-face support
- In addition, online topic-focused workshops with our experts

E-Portfolio of Evidence

- Tried and tested electronic portfolio system
- Examples and portfolio template provided – but scope to alter as desired
- Highly experienced IT support on-hand to help build the required portfolio
- Broadening of the portfolio to be useful as a live and online CV for continuing career paths
- Clear guidance on what to include and how
- Face-to-face coaching for building the portfolio as well as remote support when needed
- Live feedback on evidence throughout

Monitored Tasks & Activities

- Collaborative or independent tasks to produce for expert feedback live on the portfolio
- Activities to complete at work and report on
- A broad variety of tasks and reading
- Focused expert and individual feedback
- Highly qualified and experienced, industry-leading professionals guiding delivery and providing formative checks on learning
- Use of video, voice recording, photographs, webinars, discussion forums, group collaboration and much more!

End Point Assessment Preparation

- Long-term Zoo/Aquarium staff providing delivery which fits the real assessments and direct preparation for the methods of End Point Assessment
- Mock assessment practice and feedback
- Active feedback on practical skills to help the learner prepare for the practical element of assessment
- Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours mapped to delivery and resources
- Experienced assessors on hand
- Tutor discussion to decide gateway readiness with student and employer
- Opportunity to extend and revisit subjects if required

TO GATEWAY

