WWT Wetlands for life

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: **Collection Keeper Assistant**

At WWT we create and conserve wetlands and save species. 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!

WWT Castle Espie is situated on Strangford Lough and has the largest collection of native and exotic birds in Northern Ireland. Previous volunteers have gone on to work in animal conservation work around the world.

We are looking for a passionate volunteer to assist the Living Collections team throughout the busy breeding season with a 5 month placement for 2 / 3 days a week. This is a fantastic opportunity for candidates looking to gain or build valuable animal care experience, or willing to get stuck into outdoor conservation work.

How much time will it take?

2-3 days per week 8.00am – 4.00/5.00pm from April 2021. This can be done as part of a University course between years.

Key objectives for the placement:

- Develop experience and knowledge of animal husbandry and care for ducks and geese. This includes daily food preparation, seasonal routines and creating animal enrichment
- Cleaning of animal rearing facilities, equipment, ponds and exhibits and ensuring they are in good repair
- Undertake animal census/health checks and daily record keeping. Aiding keepers with rearing and breeding season
- Vegetation management in & around exhibits and general grounds maintenance
- Assist with pest management protocols and camera trap data
- Develop confidence with public engagement and delivering educational talks
- Gain skills which will support a future career in the zoo sector

Who are we looking for?

- Previous practical experience in animal care (with birds or in a zoo setting would be desirable)
- Able to follow instructions and safely complete activities individually or as part of a team
- Great people skills with both colleagues and visitors
- Currently studying or has achieved a qualification in a relevant animal related subject.
- Candidates should be enthusiastic, motivated, keen to gain new skills, have excellent time keeping and able to use initiative
- Keeper tasks are often physically demanding therefore good fitness, the ability to lift heavy loads and to work outdoors in all weather is essential
- You need to be over 18 years to carry out this role
- Due to the current pandemic, applicants must live locally with a means of commute

How will you benefit?

- This is an excellent opportunity to work within an internationally important wetland site.
- Gaining invaluable animal husbandry knowledge and hands on experience
- Working in the fresh air with friendly, like-minded people
- Exercise and all-round fitness
- Training in use of tools, maintenance vehicles, animal care/handling and safe working practices on site
- 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

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General Notes:

The centre is signposted from nearby towns https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/castle-espie/plan-your-visit/

This position is entirely voluntary. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer accommodation or financial support to applying candidates however regular reviews will be held and a full uniform is provided. 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

https://www.wwt.org.uk/join-and-support/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities?

For any questions regarding the placement, please email Amy.Hannan@wwt.org.uk

Closing Date:

Application deadline: **Friday March 5th at 5pm**.

Successful applicants will be invited for an interview the week commencing **March 22nd**.

This will be an opportunity to find out more about the role and discuss availability after which a suitable candidate will be offered the placement.

February 2021