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**Learning Officer**

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| **Job grade** | **Professional level 1** | **Reports to** | **Senior Learning Officer** |
| **Directorate** | Conservation Zoo’s | **Function** | **Delivery of educational programme** |
| **Contract** | **Fixed term** | **Location** | **Whipsnade** |

**Responsibility for resources**

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| **Direct line reports** | **N/A** | **Responsibility for other resources** |  |
| **Financial resources** | **N/A** |

**Our vision and mission**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

**Purpose of the role**

As a Learning Officer at Whipsnade Zoo, you will be delivering interactive and engaging workshops to our school visitors, playing a key role in supporting ZSL’s purpose to inspire, inform and empower people to stop wild animals from going extinct. This role sits within the conservation education team who work with young people to support ZSL’s purpose by delivering national curriculum education and career pathway programmes as well as forming partnerships with local education and training providers. The Learning Officer's role predominantly will be the delivery of our school programme, there may be opportunities to support the development and delivery of other engagement projects.

**Key responsibilities**

* Delivering educational activities to ensure that school students and adults have a positive learning experience during their trip to the Zoo.
* Assist in the organisation of school visits including responding to teacher enquiries and welcoming schools into the zoo, to ensure it is a smooth and positive experience
* Maintaining educational spaces and resources – updating/repairing/replacing resources
* Support Senior Learning Officers on new developments related to school audiences and career courses.
* Work to improve the zoo visit experience for schools and other educational groups (e.g.  evaluation collection, project meetings, feedback on proposals)
* Assist the Senior Learning Officers to ensure the safeguarding of students on site is integral to all activities and learning experiences.
* The postholder will be expected to learn several different workshops. Training will be provided but the post holder would be expected to take responsibility for their own knowledge development through research and identify areas to improve knowledge/training needs with their line manager.
* The postholder would be expected to be knowledgeable in the work of ZSL and zoos in general in order to help answer the range of questions that come from engagement opportunities with school-aged learners.

The duties and responsibilities described are not a comprehensive list and additional tasks may be assigned from time to time that are in line with the level of the role.

**Person Specification**

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| Experience | |
| Essential | * Experience teaching educational programmes in either a formal or informal environment. * Experience working with young people of a variety of ages and abilities |
| Desirable | * Proven experience in communicating conservation and environmental messages to a wide range of audiences. * Background in science, specifically biology or the environment would be an advantage. * Experience teaching both primary and secondary-age students * Experience working in zoos, informal learning environments or outdoors |
| Knowledge and skills | |
| Essential | * Knowledge of the current National Curriculum and exam syllabi * Knowledge of current environmental issues and sustainable actions that can be promoted to mitigate environmental impact * Able to ascertain the needs of their audience and adapt their delivery of a programme accordingly * Understanding of different pedagogical approaches that can be applied to maximise learning. * Strong facilitation and outstanding written and verbal communication ability * Confident to proactively engage with a variety of audiences effectively |
| Desirable | * Experience using computer programmes for engagement * Knowledge of the work of ZSL * An understanding of BIAZA, EAZA and the wider zoo community * An understanding of the role that zoos, and other informal learning environments, can play in supporting young people, and engaging the public in environmental issues * An understanding of how informal learning environments can be proactively inclusive to support learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities |
| Additional requirements | |
| Essential | * This post will require working outside with direct exposure to the weather. * As the post involves working with children an enhanced DBS check will be required. * This post is an operational role and will require the post-holder to be onsite at Whipsnade Zoo for each working day. * Strong commitment to creating a culture that lives ZSL values and commitment to safeguarding, equality and diversity (collaborative, inspiring, inclusive, innovative, impactful and ethical) * To comply with and promote Health and Safety policies and procedures |