

## **Work Placements**

Tropiquaria is asked almost daily for work placements by a variety of students. Sadly because of the small size of our permanent staff we cannot accept the majority of these. Many of the constraints on accepting students have effectively been imposed on us by the State and Europe through a large number of regulations.

Initially we have to exclude all under 16s. This is because of the degree of supervision required under Health and Safety legislation and the worries of our insurers. The restrictions that we would have to impose on the student would make much work here almost impossible for them.

### **Animal-related courses**

With post 16s we prioritise students who have a course requirement for experience with exotic animals. In practical terms this means that the majority of students who come to us are on a National Diploma in animal management of some sort or on a Foundation Degree in a similar subject. Students with a gap year, who have a definite offer of a place at veterinary school are also favoured. All placements will involve outside keeping of animals in inclement weather. In other words it can be wet cold and miserable, because the animals still require feeding and cleaning in this weather.

### **Non-animal-related courses**

The competition for places here is much less and we welcome applications from students on business-related courses, land-based courses and those in travel and tourism. Our staff experience in these areas is limited, but practical.

If having read all this you think that you might like to perform your work placement with us and that we might be interested in you you should email an application to us at [info@tropiquaria.co.uk](mailto:info@tropiquaria.co.uk) stating your name age, current course and dates when you are available. If for some reason you are unable to email you should send a written application with a stamped addressed envelope.

As Tropiquaria is open to the public for the vast majority of the year, and many of its visitors may be classed as “vulnerable people”, we do have a duty of care for our visitors and although every applicant for a work placement will be considered on their individual merits and personal circumstances it is very unlikely that we could accept anyone who is currently on the sex-offenders register, who has been released from prison under licence, or (for other reasons) who has convictions relating to animal welfare, whether in the UK or overseas.