Biological Science – Zoology Ecology and Conservation

Zoology, Ecology and Conservation graduates tend to pursue careers in the Environment and Agriculture sectors, the animal and plant related aspects of the Science and Pharmaceuticals sector, and areas such as Teaching and Education.

With such diverse skills, graduates from these subjects can also look further afield. If they build up some relevant experience first they can consider roles in: Finance, Business and Management, Publishing and the Media and Marketing, Advertising and PR.

Roles

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further, pre-assessed useful information.

- Ecologist
- Nature Conservation Officer
- Environmental Consultants
- Forest/Woodland Manager
- Environmental Education Officer
- Science Writer
- Veterinary Surgeon
- Research Scientist
- Toxicologist
- Animal Nutritionist
- Secondary School Teacher

Business roles that will harness your transferable skills could include: Technical Sales Engineer, Chartered Management Accountant and Marketing Officer.

Finding Opportunities

If you are looking at the above roles there are some, like becoming a Veterinary Surgeon or Research Scientist, which require further study. For information on further study head to FindaPhd.Com and/or the postgraduate study pages of the Prospects website.

If you want to be an Ecologist and you wish to be highly specialised, a postgraduate course is likely to be needed. Environmental Educational Officers need postgraduate qualifications typically to work with school age visitors. Forest/Woodland managers will need to undertake courses accredited by the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF). Those interested in Animal Nutritionist roles who have studied broad Biological Sciences Degrees with minimal focus on nutrition may find a postgraduate qualification makes sense. Toxicologists can often study a relevant masters or train on the job. Secondary School Teachers can study for a PGCE or consider other routes in to teaching such as Schools Direct for instance. Business options in finance, marketing or sales will train you on the job and often pay you to undertake professional qualifications while you work look at the Chartered Institute of Management Accountancy and the Chartered Institute of Marketing for further information. The remaining roles above do not require postgraduate study, but it is the case that most applicants would achieve a considerable advantage by having a relevant Masters course. Don’t underestimate, however, how important relevant experience can be for many roles, sometimes more so than postgraduate qualifications so do your research.

Access this page and more options at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources
Getting experience in ecology, conservation or in a zoo or safari park or in other related roles can be notoriously difficult, particularly if you want paid work. The best approach by far is to use a creative job search to access the hidden job market.

Teaching experience can be found through the Students in Schools programme, or through getting in touch with schools you have a history with. To gain experience in a research role try the University Research Opportunities Programme or the Knowledge Transfer Partnership Schemes. It may be difficult to secure lab-based experience unless you try for a one year placement because of health and safety concerns and the training involved. You may be able to organise visits by directly approaching labs that interest you. Other work experience in sales, accountancy and marketing may be more accessible with schemes being very visible so get onto MyJobsOnline to track down opportunities.

Further details on identifying potential recruiters and vacancies are available through some specialist websites:

- The Wildlife Trusts website has job pages and volunteering sections.
- UK Wildlife Parks
- Nature
- The National Trust
- The Campaign to Protection Rural England
- DEFRA and the Environment Agency and other related Government Departments
- Natural England has a jobs page.
- NERC provides a list of research centres that may have opportunities.
- The Field Studies Council have opportunities.
- ENDS have a great member directory and jobs listings for those interested in environmental roles.
- JobsGoPublic for public sector opportunities.
- Countryside Jobs Service has jobs listings.
- Nature Jobs has searchable jobs database.

**Further Reading**

There are other useful links to help Zoologists, Ecologists and Wildlife Conservationists in their career search:

- The Society of Biology
- The Ecologist
- The British Toxicology Society has vacancies and PhD studentships.
- Cogent is the sector skills council for Life Sciences based industries and has great careers information.
- LANTRA is the sectors skills council for land based and environmental industries.
- The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.
- The Zoological Society of London.