Career options with a zoology degree

As a Zoologist, your research and work will most likely fall under one or more of five thematic areas:
- Behavioural and population ecology
- Biodiversity and macroecology
- Evolution and molecular ecology
- People, wildlife and ecosystems
- Wildlife epidemiology

You can read more about these areas on The Institute of Zoology website.

Alternatively, you could find yourself working in related industries such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals and the environmental sector or in unrelated areas such as marketing, human resources and the armed services. The destinations of our students support this view, and alumni are working and studying in an eclectic range of organisations. In order to pursue some careers you may have to undertake further study and develop specialist skills and knowledge.

Recent graduate destinations
Burton Bolton & Rose: recruitment consultancy – recruitment consultant
Computer science company: IT systems and consultancy – graduate trainee
Kingswood Trust: environmental education centre – activities instructor
Kirkhouse Trust: agricultural research – project administrator
Mayflower Animal Sanctuary: animal welfare – animal carer
MediaCom: media agency – communications executive
Merial: animal health products – laboratory technician
Royal Air Force: armed services – flight controller
Surrey Wildlife Trust: conservation charity – woodland ecologist
Toucan Rescue Centre: costa rica animal conservation – volunteer
Woburn Safari Park: zoo – zookeeper

Postgraduate study
A wide range of postgraduate degree programmes have been undertaken by recent students such as:
- Stem cell research
- Toxicology and resistance to pesticides
- Animal behaviour
- Zoology
- Sustainable agriculture
- Wildlife and conservation management
- Educational leadership
- Business studies
- Conservation biology
- Biological photography and imaging
- Advanced methods in taxonomy and biodiversity
- Environmental science
- Veterinary science
- Professional safari field guide certification

The universities attended range from The University of Nottingham, University of Cambridge, University of Reading, University of Warwick, Imperial College London, The University of Edinburgh and Brunel University London.

LinkedIn
Graduate destinations such as those noted above do not necessarily provide a complete picture of what students go on to do with their lives and careers.

LinkedIn can be very useful to track how careers have developed over time. You can also find out where former students work, what they do and how they got there. This information can be useful to you when making decisions about your career planning, networking and taking the important next step on graduation.

If you’re new to LinkedIn then there is a useful video on YouTube on how to get started. Search for “University of Nottingham Careers – getting started with LinkedIn”
What skills have I got?
In addition to your subject knowledge, your zoology degree and extra-curricular activity equips you with key skills sought by employers: in all sectors and industries.

Here are just a few of the skills developed on your course: written and verbal skills, research, analyse and interpret data, problem solving, time and personal management, presentation skills, data handling, statistics and project management.

How we can help
Our experts are here to help you at every stage of your University life. We offer a range of appointments, from CV reviews to more in-depth careers advice. Appointments can be booked online through My Career and are available throughout the year.

Visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/login and use your University username and password to sign in.

General advice
There are many places to look for information and listed below are some that we think you might find useful. It is not exhaustive and no doubt your own research will lead you to other websites.

The Society of Biology
www.societyofbiology.org
Good source of information on careers using biology and much more.

BBSRC
www.bbsrc.ac.uk
Funds research into plants, microbes, animals (including humans) tools and technology underpinning scientific research.

NERC
www.nerc.ac.uk
The leading funder of research, training and innovation in environmental science in the UK.

The Zoological Society of London
www.zsl.org
Masters and PhD-level research and job opportunities.

British Ecological Society
http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/

Stop Dodo
www.environmentjobs.com
Website advertising environmental and conservation jobs and internships worldwide.

Marine Biological Association of the UK
www.mba.ac.uk
Marine and fisheries research.

Laboratories based around the UK

British Antarctic Survey
https://www.bas.ac.uk/
The world’s leading environmental research centre for science in the Antarctic.

Further study
www.findaphd.com
www.findamasters.com
www.jobs.ac.uk – you can search for studentships on this site as well as roles within further and higher education
www.researchgate.net – a website for researchers and research

Conservation charities
http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/charities

BBC Wildlife Magazine on Twitter
https://twitter.com/WildlifeMag

MSD animal health products
www.msd-animal-health.co.uk

Zoetis animal health products
www.zoetis.com

UK biodiversity portal
www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/british-natural-history/uk-biodiversity-portal

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