

Work Based Learning (WBL) Placement Description

Host Details

Host Organisation	REPTILE ENCOUNTERS
Placement Title	Animal keeper & wildlife education assistant
Placement Location	Onsite
Address (if onsite)	2 Leslie Crt Burwood 3125
Primary Supervisor Name	Catherine Mallia
Position Title	Education Manager
Host Organisation Website	www.reptileencounters.com.au

Host Organisation Background:

Reptile Encounters is primarily an interactive educational business holding demonstrations and educating schools and the public on native wildlife. We also host a program through the NDIS where neurodivergent kids and young adults work with our zookeepers to learn skills in caring for wildlife. It was established in 2007. Our vision is for Reptile Encounters to inspire and educate the next generations to save our planet.

Placement Details

Placement Semester/Term	Semester 2
Start Date	29 July 2024
End Date	TBC
Days/hours per week	
Hours (total)	100 hours
Placement Type	Unpaid

The host and successful student will have an opportunity to negotiate placement start and end dates, as well as days of the week that align to the Term or Semester dates that the student is enrolled in prior to commencing the placement.

Desired Course Discipline/Background

Suitable for students interested in conservation, ecology or zoology and enrolled in the following courses:

- Bachelor of Wildlife & Conservation Biology
- Bachelor of Biological Sciences – Zoology, Ecology majors
- Bachelor of Science - Zoology, Ecology majors
- Bachelor of Animal and Vet Biosciences

Key Duties and Responsibilities

Students will have the opportunity to gain practical industry-based work experience at Reptile Encounters where they will apply their discipline knowledge and problem-solving skills, communicate effectively in a professional context with people from different backgrounds and work as part of a team to facilitate the achievement of projects and organisational outcomes. Duties will include:

- Habitat and enclosure cleaning and maintenance – raking, scrubbing, sweeping, hosing down, window cleaning etc.

- Assisting with food preparation for a variety of species
- Preparing and assisting with animal enrichment for a variety of species
- Animal observations and monitoring health and behaviour
- Interacting with kindergartens, primary and secondary schools or members of the public
- Assisting RE staff and gaining an understanding of their role
- Interacting with participants with Autism Spectrum Disorder that work with us learning zookeeping skills

Depending on availability it may also be possible for students to spend some time undertaking school and community visits

At the end of the training period, students are expected to gain practical and theoretical knowledge of animal keeping, guest experience and conservation.

Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Enthusiasm to learn
- Passion for Animals and Conservation
- Enjoy working outdoors
- Friendly and reliable
- Attention to detail

Desired:

- Experience working in the disability sector
- Basic knowledge of Australian native species

Pre-Placement Compliance Checks & Requirements

- Police Check
- Working With Children Check (WWCC)
- Other (Please Specify)
- None

Work Based Learning (WBL) – Subject Information and Requirements

Subject Code	LTU3IND
Subject Information	
Subject Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed 120 credit points of your degree • Have 1 elective space in your course plan

How to Apply

Application Deadline: 22nd May 2024

Application Instructions:

Please provide:

- CV/Resume
- Cover letter. Please address why you are interested in this placement opportunity.

- Apply through the following link: [Industry Placement Application Form, Careers and Opportunities, La Trobe University](#)

For help with your cover letter and resume - [Resumes and job applications, Careers and Opportunities, LTU](#)

Thank you for considering a Work Based Learning Placement!