

Qualification Route to Becoming an Animal Keeper

Depending on your GCSE results there are three routes to reach a Level 3 qualification

4 Year Route

2 or more GCSEs at grade 3-1 or above

Animal Care – Level 1

Animal Care – Level 2 Certificate

3 Year Route

4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, English and Maths at grade 3

Animal Management – Level 3

2 Year Route

5 GCSEs including Science, Maths and English at grade 4

A level 3 can then lead to...

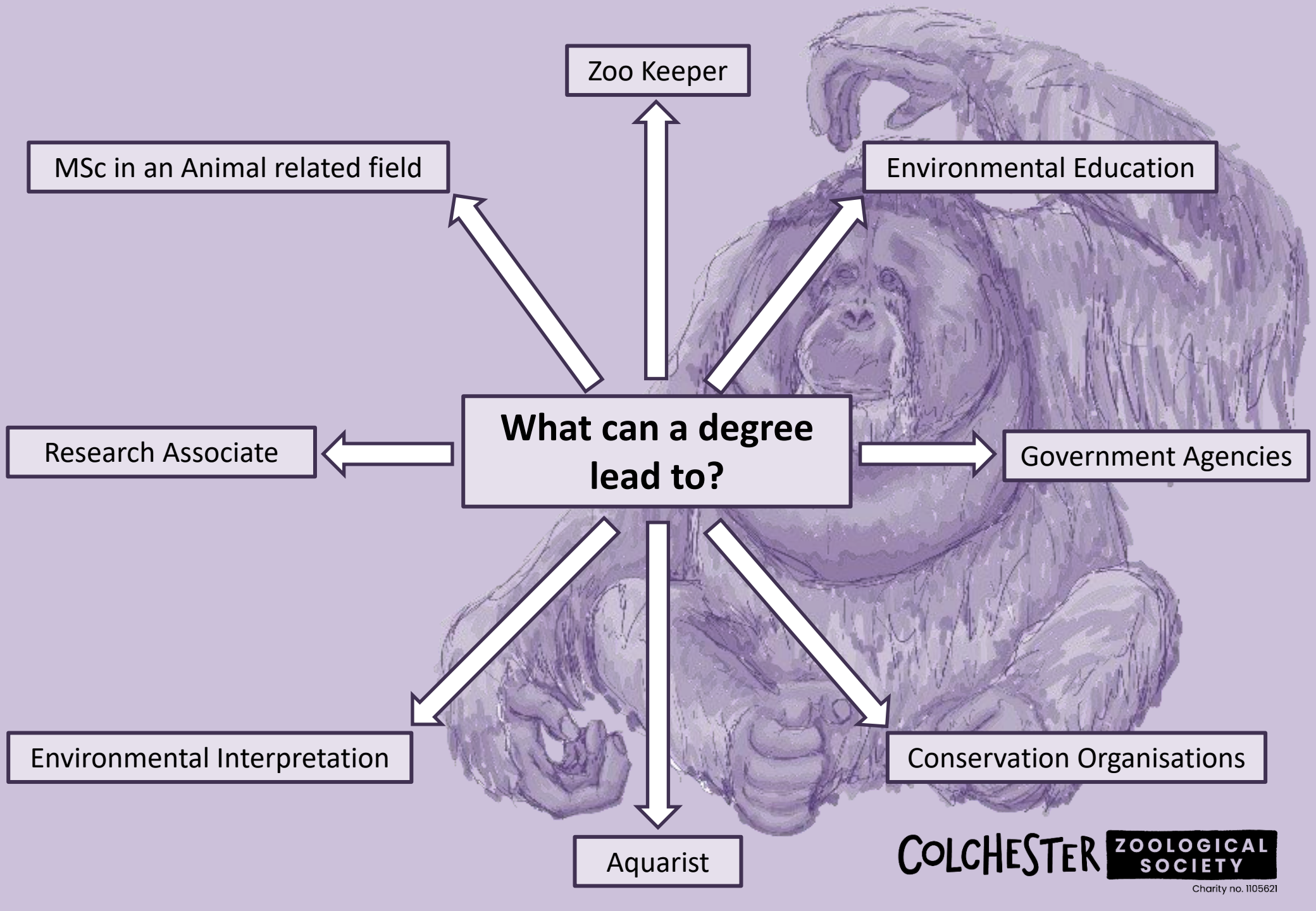
Easier to transfer to other fields such as education and research

Animal Keeper job

HND, FdSc or BSc in an Animal Science field

Animal Keeper job





What can a degree lead to?

Zoo Keeper

MSc in an Animal related field

Environmental Education

Research Associate

Government Agencies

Environmental Interpretation

Conservation Organisations

Aquarist

Job Roles in The Zoological Sector

These are broad job requirements and only a selection of the possible roles.

Animal Keeper

Qualifications: Level 3 in Animal Management

Experience: Minimum of two years

Can lead to: Head of an Animal Section

Tips: Any animal experience is beneficial, and you need a good level of fitness. Also be prepared to move to any part of the country.

Aquarist

Qualifications: Diving, Level 3 Animal Care, BSc Aquatic Science

Experience: Minimum of two years

Can lead to: Senior Aquarist

Tips: Aquarist jobs are technical and gaining experience in plumbing and water chemistry is useful.

Field Ranger

Qualifications: Diploma in nature conservation

Experience: People, leadership and DIY skills

Can lead to: Reserve Manager

Tips: There are a number of field ranger opportunities in the UK, including volunteer positions.

Researcher

Qualifications: BSc, MSc/MRes

Experience: Managing different projects. Able to review scientific papers

Can lead to: Research lead

Tips: Having some practical animal experience is an advantage.

Presenter

Qualifications: GCSE in Maths, English and Science

Experience: Public speaking

Can lead to: Roles in education or events.

Tips: Developing good personal and communication skills are key.

Conservation Scientist

Qualifications: BSc, MSc and/or PhD

Experience: Research methods, field work

Can lead to: Lead scientist

Tips: Your area of study will determine which area you work in. The role can be office based or field based or a mixture of both.

Work Experience

Qualifications: working towards or gained a Level 2

Experience: customer service

Can lead to: Animal keeper

Tips: These are unpaid positions, so make sure you can fund yourself.

Visitor Volunteer

Qualifications: None required

Experience: Interacting with people in a public setting

Can lead to: Animal work experience

Tips: This form of volunteering is a good way to discover more about how zoos operate and build confidence.

Keeper Volunteer

Qualifications: Completing a Level 1, 2 or 3 in animal care

Experience: Any animal experience

Can lead to: Student keeper

Tips: A good way to gain experience alongside gaining qualifications.

Education Officer

Qualifications: BSc in Animal Science or Education

Experience: Minimum of two years working with children and groups

Can lead to: Learning Manager

Tips: Working with scout groups, or youth groups is a good way to gain experience.

Useful website: www.biaza.org.uk/careers



COLCHESTER **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Charity no. 1105621

Job Roles in Zoos that are Not Animal Related

These are broad job requirements and only a selection of the possible roles.

Plumber

Qualifications: Plumbing studies, Plumbing and domestic heating, T Level in Building Services Engineering for Construction.

Apprenticeships: Plumbing and Domestic Heating Technician Building Services Engineering Gas Engineering Operative
Skills: Attention to detail, knowledge of maths, work well with others, customer service.

Electrician

Qualifications: Electrical installation, electronic and electrical engineering. T-Level in Building Services Engineering for Construction

Apprenticeship: Installation and Maintenance Electrician Advanced Apprenticeship Domestic Electrician
Skills: Maths knowledge, attention to detail, problem-solving skills, customer service.

Accountant

Qualifications: Accountancy Accounting and finance, Business and management or Maths

Skills: Knowledge of economics and accounting, analytical thinking, attention to detail

Tips: Being able to work as a team and get experience with computer systems as it is all digital now.

Catering Assistant

Qualifications: Level 2 Award in Food Safety

Skills: Excellent communication. Ability to work under pressure in a fast-paced environment. Ability to work both within a team and individually.

Tips: There is lots of on the job training and these roles offer more flexibility around college and university.

Gardener

Qualifications: Level 2 Diploma in Practical Horticultural Skills Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture

Skills: Repair and maintain machines and tools. Being comfortable to work in all weathers. Team work and communication.

Tips: Volunteer with the Wildlife Trust or National Trust

Graphic Designer

Qualifications: Design and Illustration degree

Skills: Adobe Creative Suite. Work experience in the industry. Have a broad range of design skills, digital, print, 3D moving graphics etc.

Tips: Don't just focus on one medium and create your own portfolio of work to show your skills and creativity.

Media Coordinator

Qualifications: Marketing & Business degree

Skills: Good communication. Being able to liaise with multiple teams. Have some design experience is useful.

Tips: and able to gather information from multiple sources and good time management are important to develop.

Play Area Assistant

Qualifications: outdoor play & learning or a T Level in Education and Early Years

Skills: Communication skills for a range of customer needs and abilities. Work both collaboratively within a team and individually.

Tips: Experience working with children and in drama, dance or performing arts.

Carpenter

Qualifications: Level 2/3 Diploma in Bench Joinery. Level 2 or Level 3 Diploma in Site Carpentry. T Level in On Site Construction.

Apprenticeship: Level 2 or 3 in Carpentry and Joinery. Level 2 Wood Product Manufacturing Operative
Skills: Attention to detail, knowledge of maths, ability to work on your own.

Retail Assistant

Qualifications: On the job training

Experience: Work both within a team and individually. Working work under pressure in a fast-paced environment Communication skills

Tips: Volunteering in a charity shop to get some retail skills.

Useful website: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>





Job Positions in the Zoo Sector - Upper Management

The following job roles are an outline of some of the key positions within a zoo, highlighting the main responsibilities of the role as well as the experience and qualification commonly needed.

It is important to remember that individual zoos will have slightly different requirements and they may have different titles, such as trainee keeper maybe referred to as junior animal keeper.
Useful website: www.biaza.org

Zoological Director

Responsibilities: Ensuring the smooth running of the animal department, whilst maintaining high levels of welfare and developing the zoo.

Experience: Operational and people management skills, extensive leadership and management experience in an accredited zoological organisation.

Qualifications: BSc in a field related to the position and management qualifications. A MSc or higher is preferred.

Curator

Responsibilities: Oversee the animal sections and staff management to ensure high levels of welfare and conservation. To support in the development of the zoo and the Zoological Director in decision making.

Experience: 15+ years in a zoological setting with leadership experience and in-depth knowledge of zoological data systems, breeding programmes and the husbandry needs of a variety of species.

Qualifications: BSc in an animal related field and management qualifications.

Head Keeper

Responsibilities: To support in the development of the zoo and the Zoological Director in decision making. To work with the Team Leaders to ensure good animal husbandry care and staff management. Support conservation work

Experience: Minimum of 15 years in a zoological setting and leadership experience. Knowledge of husbandry needs of a variety of species.

Qualifications: HND in an animal related field and zoo specific qualifications. Supervision training and a qualification in management is an advantage.



Job Positions in the Zoo Sector

Team Leader

Responsibilities: The day to day management of the animal section and staff, ensure high levels of welfare and ensuring a positive visitor experience.

Experience: 10 years in a zoological setting with 5 years of leadership experience. Good IT literacy, knowledge of zoological organisations.

Qualifications: DMZAA or Level 3 Animal related qualification. Management skills.

Deputy Team Leader

Responsibilities: Support the day to day running of the animal section and manage the section in the absence of the Head of Section.

Experience: At least 8 years in a zoological setting, as well as leadership experience. Good IT literacy and knowledge of zoological organisations

Qualifications: DMZAA or Level 3 Animal related qualification..

Senior Animal Keeper

Responsibilities: Maintain the husbandry requirements and welfare of the animals. Provide a positive visitor experience. Support staff training and manage staff to support the daily running of the animal section.

Experience: Minimum of 5 years in a zoological setting and some experience of supervising staff.

Qualifications: DMZAA or Level 3 Animal related qualification

Qualified Animal Keeper

Responsibilities: Maintain the husbandry requirements and welfare of the animals. Provide a positive visitor experience and support staff training.

Experience: 2-3 years in a zoological setting.

Qualifications: DMZAA or Level 3 Animal related qualification.

DMZAA – Diploma in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals

Trainee Animal Keeper

Responsibilities: Maintain the husbandry requirements and welfare of the animals. Provide a positive visitor experience.

Experience: Previous work experience within a zoo or similar establishment would be an advantage.

Qualifications: On the job training through the DMZAA qualification or apprenticeship in zoo and aquarium management.