



The
Manchester
College®
be amazing

Animal Care

at The Manchester College



tmc.ac.uk/animal-care

About



Whether you dream of working with pets, wildlife or exotic creatures, you can start your journey to a great career right here at The Manchester College.

Our Animal Care department is home to more than 100 mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. And you'll be learning what each one needs to thrive. As well as hands-on activities, you'll be studying a wide range of topics, such as animal behaviour, nutrition and conservation.

You don't need any previous experience to enrol on your first course and you'll be supported every step of the way by your tutors. They've worked in both animal care and teaching, and are as mad about animals as you are!

There are so many careers open to you and we want to make sure you have everything you need to be successful, so you'll gain crucial work experience through our Centre of Excellence for Animal Care. You could end up with a placement at a vets, pet shop, riding stables, kennels or even the Blue Planet Aquarium.

We often invite guest speakers to the College including organisations like Dogs4Good, the RSPCA, Blue Cross and Manchester Museum. They've made a career out of working with animals, and will happily share their advice and tell you about some of the jobs you could apply for when you finish your studies.

Plus, you'll be taking trips out to places like Chester Zoo and working farms to hear from even more people who work in the industry.

The demand for animal care professionals is increasing every year. If you'd like to become a zookeeper or even travel the world caring for desert, jungle or ocean wildlife, you've come to the right place.



Centre of Excellence for Animal Care

We passionately believe in helping you reach your ultimate goal, focusing on your future employability and developing the skills you need to have a successful career.

Our Centre of Excellence for Animal Care is set up to help you do just that!



Study Programmes

You'll join our Centre of Excellence for Animal Care when you enrol on any of our qualifications from Level 1 to Level 3.

If you haven't already obtained a Grade 4 GCSE in English or maths, you'll study to achieve this level of qualification alongside your course. This is a mandatory requirement and it's also essential you achieve this for many careers.

Employability

To prepare you for your future career, you'll take part in a range of 'employability' activities to equip you with the knowledge and experience of careers available to you:



Employability Sessions

You'll be assigned an Employability Tutor and will take part in dedicated 'employability' sessions which will help equip you with the skills you'll need to thrive in the workplace.

Work Related Activity

There are so many careers that involve working with animals. We organise lots of work related activities to help you discover more about the opportunities that might be open to you. You could soon be:

Finding out what it's like to work in the industry, from professionals such as veterinarians, pet shop owners and dog walkers.

Going on trips to zoos, wildlife parks, kennels or other real workplaces, to experience some of the environments you could choose to work in.

Meeting employers and other experts in the animal care sector such as Chester Zoo to talk about the wide range of career pathways open to you in the sector.

Work Experience Placement

As part of the course you are required to take on external work experience. We will help you find a suitable placement. While there, you'll help with day-to-day tasks and shadow staff to develop your skills and broaden your knowledge of the industry.

Previous students have had placements at:

Wythenshawe Farm

Lyme Park

Blue Planet Aquarium

Urban Jungle and other pet shops

Dog Groomers

Riding Stables

Animal Sanctuaries

Veterinarians

Industry Placement

You may be able to apply for an industry placement offering more than 315 hours of experience with a leading employer.

These placements give you an in-depth knowledge of the industry, allow you to gain hands on experience and provide an insight into career pathways.

Some of our students even go on to gain paid employment with their industry placement employer at the end of the year, so they offer a great first step into the industry.

Once you complete your journey in our Centre of Excellence, you will have all the skills you need to be 'work ready' and the qualifications you need to take the next steps towards an amazing career.



Courses

All of our courses are designed to prepare you for a wide range of roles working with animals.

You'll gain a greater understanding of lots of different species, as well as learning the practical skills you'll need to care for them properly. As you progress through your journey with The Manchester College, you'll learn advanced animal husbandry skills and cover complex topics such as genetics.

Entry Level/Level 1 | Small Animal Care Skills | One year

Our entry level course will see you taking part in a range of practical and work related skill sessions. You'll learn the basics of handling, feeding, transporting and caring for small animals like rabbits, rats, mice and guinea pigs.

You'll also learn about the cultivation of plants and vegetables, and be able to put your skills into practice in our Geodome – a revolutionary indoor growing system and 'living classroom'.

By the end of the course, you'll have gained plenty of practical skills and a better understanding of the animal care sector.

Level 2 | Animal Care | One year

Our Level 2 course will deepen your knowledge, skills and understanding of animal care.

As well as continuing to build your confidence and skills in feeding and caring for a variety of animals, you'll learn more about keeping them healthy, safe and comfortable.

You'll also start to learn about the basic principles of animal biology and behaviour, ready for when you progress to Level 3.

Level 3 | Animal Management | Two years

Over this two year course, you'll start to explore more advanced areas of animal management, such as breeding and genetics.

Of course, you'll still get plenty of time with the animals, as you'll be building more practical skills and learning about the needs of different species.

We'll be discussing many of the career paths open to you. If you set your heart on a particular job, you'll be able to specialise by choosing to study units such as exotic animal husbandry, zoological animal health and husbandry, wildlife ecology and conservation management, animal grooming or animal nursing.

By the time you finish, you'll have gained practical skills and in-depth knowledge, as well as an industry-recognised qualification. So you'll be ready to move onto higher education or head straight out into the world of work.

Level 3 | Practical Animal Care Skills | One year

Our Level 3 Practical Animal Care Skills course is designed for anyone that has already achieved a Level 2 Animal Care qualification and is wishing to progress onto employment after completing their studies.

This highly practical qualification will allow you to develop your experience and skills working directly with animals, focusing primarily on promoting and maintaining the health and wellbeing of animals.

You'll learn about health and welfare of animals, how to interpret and recognise the behaviour of animals and how to maintain health, safety and security in the workplace.

Once you complete your studies, you'll have all of the knowledge and experience of working with animals you need to progress into employment in the animal care sector.

Careers



ZOOKEEPER

As a zookeeper, you'd be responsible for making sure the animals in your care are happy, healthy and safe. You'd want them to be free to behave as they would do in the wild, as much as possible. Along with feeding the animals and cleaning out pens, you'd be checking for signs of distress or disease and caring for any sick creatures. You might also help to encourage the next generation of zookeepers by giving educational talks to children and adults.

Average Salary: £18,000



COUNTRYSIDE RANGER

If you're never happier than when you're outside, clambering up hills or exploring the Pennine Moors, a career as a countryside ranger could be just what you're looking for. You'd plan, create and protect habitats for plants, animals and birds. On an average day, you might plant trees, manage ponds and check for any damage to boundaries. As well as protecting the countryside directly, you could also help to inspire others to respect the world around them. You might lead guided walks, give talks, manage exhibitions and head up school activities, for example.

Average Salary: £23,000



ASSISTANCE DOG TRAINER

Assistance dogs are a real lifeline to people who are deaf, blind or have another disability. Some of their training is done by volunteers. You would work with these volunteers while carrying out more advanced training with the dogs themselves. Once a dog has 'graduated', you'll help to match it with a new owner, and train the pair to work together successfully.

Average Salary: £20,250

Meet the Team

Our welcoming and supportive tutors are passionate about animals, wildlife and the environment. Each member of the department has a wealth of knowledge and experience in both animal care and teaching.

From working as a Marine Biologist in Australia's Great Barrier Reef to working in British conservation and ecology, you'll learn from their experiences and benefit from their links to the industry.



LIZ PETERS
Head of Department

Liz possesses 30 years' experience in the service industries and worked as a manager in a variety of colleges including Bury College, Calderdale College and West Lancashire College.

Liz became Head of Department for Animal Care in 2021 after spending a number of years as Assistant Principal for Service and Retail Industries.

She is passionate about improving the lives and the employability skills of learners in Greater Manchester.



JAYNE SHAKESHAFT
Department Team Leader

Jayne took over as Department Team Leader in August 2018.

She has 21 years of teaching experience – including 17 years spent teaching Science, Biology and Chemistry at both GCSE and A level and four years working in Animal Care education.

Jayne has a lifelong interest in animals and has owned a horse, rats, cats and dogs. She also has an interest in all aspects of natural history and environmental biology.



JACK STEVENS
Animal Technician

Jack has worked within the animal industry for 10 years, since beginning work experience in secondary school at a dog training centre.

He has worked with various species in animal collections, including Eurasian wild boar, wallabies and skunks, which is why he finds this industry to be hugely rewarding.

Jack has a love of some domestic animals too; he even has a pet rabbit called Theo and an English bull terrier called Thomas.



DEBORAH STEVENS
Tutor

Deborah is one of our Animal Care tutors and has a BSC Degree in Marine Biology & Zoology.

Her varied experience includes working in Australia as a Marine Biologist, teaching guests about the ecosystem of the reef and all its inhabitants, whilst helping survey for damage and conducting coral health assessments.

Deborah is one of our specialists in animal health and welfare as well as sustainability.

Location

Our Animal Care department and its huge variety of animals and habitats will be moving to brand new facilities at our Wythenshawe campus for September 2022.

At Wythenshawe you'll be working with everything from rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens, right through to lovebirds, leopard gecko and a royal python. We've even got a racoon. If you love animals, you're in for a real treat.



Wythenshawe Campus
Brownley Road
Wythenshawe
Manchester
M22 9UH



Building Excellence

We are currently investing £140m in upgrading our existing campuses and building new facilities, including a brand new campus in the city centre.

This exciting investment will enable us to provide you and future generations of students with state-of-the-art, industry standard facilities that will mirror the world of work, providing the perfect setting to help prepare you for a future career.

In our Centre of Excellence for Animal Care you will benefit from some fantastic new facilities that we are developing specifically for your studies. These will include bespoke reptile and small animal care rooms; fantastic new outdoor animal pens; a modern dog grooming facility and an industry standard food preparation area.

These amazing facilities will enable you to learn in an environment that matches those that you will work in when you start your career.



Our Animals

We have more than 120 animals and over 40 different species. They live in a variety of habitats and need different things to keep them healthy and happy. You'll soon be learning all about them, from how to handle a ferret, to which leafy greens to feed a bearded dragon.



African land snails

Madagascar hissing cockroach

royal python

Siberian chipmunk

fancy mouse

Millipedes

Cuban tree frog

harvest mice

assassin mimic cockroaches

White's tree frog



gerbils

sun beetles

African bullfrog

bantams

Argentinian horned frog

Giant stick insects/macleays

Indian stick insects

chickens

yellow bellied slider terrapins

tanukis

Chilean rose tarantulas

bearded dragons



Mississippi mud turtle

conures

coati



leopard geckos

Greek sour thighed tortoises

ferrets

milk snake

Indian ringnecks

corn snakes

rabbits

king snake

Guinea pigs



African civets

northern pine snake

sugar gliders

racoon

Lovebirds

What Our Students Say



“Animal Care at The Manchester College is really enjoyable. You get to learn lots of theory on topics such as biology, which supports all the practical work we do caring for the animals. There were other courses closer to where I live, but I chose this one because of its study modules. I originally wanted to work with dogs in particular, but there is such a large mix of animals. I’m loving working with the racoons.”

ABIGAIL MURRAY
Level 3 Animal Management



“The Animal Care staff are really helpful and having access to different animals and excellent resources has developed me for the work place.”

AMY HAMPSON
Level 3
Animal
Management

*Former Hazel Grove
High School student*



“The work experience here is emphasised alongside your qualifications, giving you real industry experience. The tutors and the careers team have given me excellent advice and guidance from day one on how I can reach my ambition and targets. I now want to have a career as a veterinary professional.”

ANA TANASSE
Level 3
Animal
Management

*Former Oasis
Academy student*



“The Animal Care department has a diverse range of animals, excellent facilities and the tutors are amazing! They go out of their way to support you to reach your full potential.”

REBECCA MARSTON
Level 3
Animal
Management

*Former Werneth High
School student*



“The course and the facilities for Animal Management are outstanding. My time here has opened my eyes to how many different job opportunities there are in animal management, and this has really pushed me to achieve my dream career.”

HARRY RAYER
Level 3
Animal
Management

*Former Newall Green
High School student*

How to Apply

Applying to study at The Manchester College is really easy and can be done online via desktop, tablet or mobile.

Simply follow these eight steps and you'll be on your journey to amazing in no time at all.



STEP 1
Visit tmc.ac.uk



STEP 5
Book to attend an Applicant and Parent Information Evening (16-18 year old students only)



STEP 2
Browse our range of courses and choose the course you'd like to apply for



STEP 6
Register to attend our New Student Welcome Day (16-18 year old students only)



STEP 3
Apply for the course using our application portal, making sure you complete all of the relevant information



STEP 7
Join us at enrolment on the date we specify on your invite (For 16-18 year old students applying for September this will be after you receive your results)



STEP 4
Receive a conditional offer



STEP 8
Start your journey to amazing

Would you like to know more?

Do you need more information or help with applying?

Visit - tmc.ac.uk/animal-care

Come and see for yourself

Join us at one of our Open Events

Visit - tmc.ac.uk/events

Keep up-to-date and follow us on:



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Got a question?

If you can't find what you're looking for, just get in touch:



enquiries@tmc.ac.uk



03333 222 444



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*The Manchester College is committed to equality of opportunity, non-discriminatory practices and supporting individual learners.
This information is also available in a range of formats, such as large print, on request.*