

# Animal Care

at The Manchester College

# 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 in Northenden 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. We want to make sure you have everything you need for a successful career. So, you'll be gaining crucial work experience through our Centre of Excellence for Animal Care. You could end up with a placement at a vets, riding stables, kennels or even the Blue Planet Aquarium.

We often invite guest speakers to the College. 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, 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, animal behaviorist 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



## 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.

**We passionately believe in helping you reach your ultimate goal, focussing 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!

# 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

Blue Planet Aquarium

Dog Groomers

Animal Sanctuaries

Lyme Park

Urban Jungle and other pet shops

Riding Stables

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.



A close-up photograph of a raccoon's face, showing its dark eyes, black and tan fur, and prominent white whiskers. The raccoon is looking directly at the camera.

# 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.

## Level 1 | Land Based Studies with Animal Care | 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 a huge range of animals.

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.

# Careers



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## ZOOKEEPER

As a zookeeper, you'd be responsible for making sure the animals in your care were 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, and also carry out more advanced training with the dogs themselves. Once a dog had 'graduated', you'd help to match it with a new owner, and train the pair to work together successfully.

**Average Salary: £ 20,250**

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# 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.



## **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 center.

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 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 it's inhabitants, whilst helping survey for damage and conducting Coral health assessments.

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

Our Northenden campus in South Manchester is home to our Animal Care department and a huge variety of animals and habitats. You'll be working with everything from rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens, right through to love birds, leopard geckos and a royal python. We've even got a racoon.

**If you love animals, you're in for a real treat.**



## Building Excellence

The Manchester College strives to deliver an exciting and innovative learning experience to all our students looking to learn new skills. We are committed to playing a pivotal role in shaping the learning of today and for the generations to follow.

In support of our commitment, The College, alongside Higher Education partner UCEN Manchester, is investing £140 million to transform and restructure our campus estate which are set to open throughout 2021 and 2022.

A powerful mix of new and redeveloped campuses, as a student you will enjoy exceptional, state-of the-art study facilities alongside access to outstanding student support services. Our aim; to create a healthy, happy, productive environment in which you can thrive as we encourage you to create a positive and prosperous future.

Our Animal Care facilities will benefit directly from our investment. It will enable us to expand and enhance our current Centres of Excellence allowing us to remain at the cutting edge of industry standards whilst offering you the very best environments to unleash your creativity and maximise your potential.

# 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

Millipedes

Cuban tree frog

fancy mouse

assassin mimic cockroaches

white's tree frog

harvest mice

sun beetles

African bullfrog

gerbils

bantams

Giant stick insects/macleays

Indian stick insects

argentinian horned frog

chickens

yellow bellied slider terrapins

tanukis

Chilean rose tarantulas

Mississippi mud turtle

conures

coati

bearded dragons

Greek sour thighed tortoises

ferrets

leopard geckos

milk snake

Indian ringnecks

corn snakes

rabbits

African civets

king snake

Guinea pigs

northern pine snake

sugar gliders

raccoon

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.**

- 01 Step 1**  
Visit [tmc.ac.uk](http://tmc.ac.uk)
- 02 Step 2**  
Browse our range of courses and choose the course you'd like to apply for
- 03 Step 3**  
Apply for the course using our application portal, making sure you complete all of the relevant information
- 04 Step 4**  
Receive a conditional offer
- 05 Step 5**  
Book to attend an Applicant and Parent Information Evening  
*(16-18 year old students only)*

- 06 Step 6**  
Register to attending our New Student Welcome Day  
*(16-18 year old students only)*
- 07 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)*
- 08 Step 8**  
Start your journey to amazing





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## Would you like to know more?

Do you need more information or help with applying?  
Visit - [tmc.ac.uk/animal-care](https://tmc.ac.uk/animal-care)

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## Come and see for yourself

Join us at one of our Open Events  
Visit [tmc.ac.uk/events](https://tmc.ac.uk/events)

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The Manchester College



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The  
Manchester  
College®  
be amazing

## Got a question?

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



[enquiries@tmc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@tmc.ac.uk)



03333 222 444

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.