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**Zoo Horticulturalist**

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| **Job level** | 2 | **Reports to** | Team Leader Horticulture |
| **Directorate** | Zoos & Engagement | **Function** | Zoo Horticulturalist |
| **Contract** | Permanent | **Location** | Whipsnade Zoo |

**Responsibility for resources**

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| **Direct line reports** | None | **Responsibility for other resources** | Equipment & machinery |
| **Financial resources** | None |

**Our vision and mission**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

**Purpose of the role**

Support ZSL in achieving its mission and purpose through the use and advancement of horticulture and land-based management, the application and development of plant related expertise and knowledge, and by managing ZSL’s sites for biodiversity.

**Key responsibilities**

* Comply with current legislation and best practice guidance (e.g. health and safety, environmental, wildlife legislation).
* Comply with ZSL and departmental policies and procedures.
* Work toward achieving the organisation’s and department’s aims by carrying out tasks to agreed standards.
* Use facilities, tools, equipment and machinery responsibly and as instructed.
* Carry out and record daily, weekly and monthly planned preventative maintenance checks to specified standards.
* Use materials and substances as instructed by the Team Leader Horticulture.
* Actively support ZSL’s and the department’s efforts to protect the environment and operate sustainably.
* Ensure own safety and that of others.
* Maintain and develop amenity areas and exhibits to defined horticultural standards.
* Carry out horticultural tasks that support animal sections, optimising husbandry and welfare opportunities.
* Carry out horticultural tasks to optimise the site’s biodiversity value and function through appropriate habitat management.
* Participate in training and further learning (formal and informal) to comply with legislation and best practice, and to develop up to date skills and knowledge in zoo horticulture.
* Supervise apprentices, volunteers and work placements as agreed with the Team Leader Horticulture.
* Supervise colleagues in situations that require special competencies (e.g. when operating machinery) as agreed with the Team Leader Horticulture.
* Assist with the management of livestock on the SSSI through the use of best practice in animal welfare and husbandry.

The duties and responsibilities described are not a comprehensive list and additional tasks

may be assigned from time to time that are in line with the level of the role.

**Person Specification**

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| Experience | |
| Essential | * The position requires practical experience of working in zoo horticulture, amenity horticulture, countryside management or a similar land-based sector. |
| Desirable | * Experience in conservation volunteering. * Experience in live-stock management. |
| Knowledge and skills | |
| Essential | * Full UK driving licence. * Good knowledge of current horticultural, arboricultural and conservation management practices and techniques. * Up to date knowledge of current health and safety legislation and best practice guidance. * Good interpersonal skills. |
| Desirable | * A qualification to at least Level 2 Diploma in horticulture (or equivalent), countryside management or similar land-based sector. * Land-based accredited qualifications in the use of equipment and machinery (e.g. NPTC, LANTRA). * A good level of literacy, numeracy and IT skills. |
| Additional requirements | |
| Essential | * Ability to collaboratively work as part of the team and with colleagues across the organisation. * Some tasks can be physically demanding and the job holder is expected to work outside in all weather conditions. * Ability to work early mornings, evenings and weekends if required. * Ability to attend training off-site if required. |