

Frequently Asked Questions for veterinary student placements

Who can apply?

Placements are for students in their final year or that have graduated in the last 12 months.

How and when can I apply?

Applications for the next year need to be sent between the 1st of April and the 1st of May of the current year. This means that you have to make sure your application is sent in the year before you are intending to come.

Fill in the [application form](#) and email it to: volunteer.coordinator@aucklandzoo.co.nz

What is the duration of the placement?

We strongly advise you to apply for a placement of 4 weeks to make your time here more worthwhile. We do understand though that some students during their final year can only spare time during three weeks, so will accept three weeks placements as a minimum.

What are our selection criteria based on?

A preference will be given to students that have shown a strong interest in zoo, wildlife and conservation medicine and that are keen to further their career in this field. Students from any university will be considered as long as the year of placement they apply for is in their final year or just after graduation.

What can one expect to do during the placement?

The placement is meant as an introduction to zoo, wildlife and conservation medicine. No placement will be the same as the next one as this depends on the clinical cases that come up during your time here.

As zoo medicine involves however a lot of other aspects and clinical work only takes up a small part of our time, we encourage the students to work on their own project that has been decided upon at the beginning of the placement.

We also engage the students as much as possible in discussions and meetings and encourage them to interact with nurses and keepers to get an understanding of the broad spectrum of tasks a zoo and wildlife veterinarian is involved in. Students will spend time with the vets, as well as with the nurses during procedures and when taking care of in-patients.

Students will perform post mortems and help with data entry. Time on animal sections can be organised to learn about husbandry and care of the different species as well as with NZVP, the professional lab that is based at the NZCCM, to learn about histopathology, microbiology etc. If you have a specific interest you can let us know and we will try to accommodate for this as much as possible.



Is the placement competitive?

Yes, it is. We do receive a lot of applications but can only accept about 10 people a year.

What happens when my application is successful?

You will be sent a confirmation email of your placement and placement date before the end of May. You will also receive a letter with extra information.

What happens when my application is unsuccessful?

You will be notified before the end of May.

Does the Zoo provide accommodation?

The Zoo does not provide accommodation but there are a lot of backpacker's places, bed and breakfast and hotels. Most will be some distance from the Zoo though and you will have to look into your own or public transport to come here.

Does the Zoo provide health/liability insurance?

The Zoo does not provide insurance, so make sure you are insured through your university or have your own insurance. However, ACC covers accidents in NZ. Please check out their website <https://www.acc.co.nz/im-injured/what-we-cover/> to see what they cover and what not.

Do we write reference letters at the end of the placement?

We do not write generic reference letters but you can indicate the vets as referees when you are applying for other placements or jobs.

Does the Zoo provide any support with travel costs?

No. All expenses are for the students.

What are the working hours?

Monday to Friday from 8am to 5.30pm with a half hour lunch break at 12.30pm. You will need to bring your own lunch or if you want you can also buy food at one of the restaurants in the Zoo.

Do you need certain vaccinations?

We do not require any vaccinations but advise you to have your vaccinations such as tetanus and hepatitis up-to-date.

