Zoology

About this area of study

Zoology is a branch of biology which studies animals in a scientific manner. It looks at animal evolution and diversity, including genetics, behavior, physiology, morphology, ecology, biochemistry and the molecular biology of animals. As a Zoologist you may be expected to look at the relationship of animals with their environments, including the individual, the population and the ecosystem.

Opportunities for employment are varied, and can be improved with higher education. Zoology graduates may work as laboratory or research assistants in applied, biomedical and pure research areas. Zoologists with higher-degree qualifications may be employed in teaching and research in universities or in CSIRO entomology, marine and wildlife divisions. They may also be employed by museums, zoos, departments of agriculture and organisations concerned with conservation, wildlife, environmental or fisheries. As a Zoologist you could gain positions in the animal breeding and genetics industry. Some zoology graduates teach science in secondary schools, but require a post-graduate qualification in education for this.

Zoologists often specialise through further study or work experience, such as

- entomology (insects)
- parasitology (internal and external parasites)
- ecology (environment of animals)
- ethology (animal behaviour)
- ichthyology (fish), mammalogy (mammals)
- ornithology (birds)
- herpetology (reptiles)
- physiology (functions of animals)

Key skills that a Zoology graduate should demonstrate include

- a keen interest in research and the study of living organisms
- good observation skills
- ability to work accurately
- a logical approach to problem solving
- good oral and written communication skills
- ability to work independently or as part of a team

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Science (Zoology major)
- Bachelor of Biological Science

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

Life Scientist

Examine the anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of all life forms in order to learn how these organisms function and live within the environment.

Pathologist

Pathologists study body tissues and fluids, etc. in order to identify or diagnose infections and diseases.

Botanist

Botanists study plants in order for conservation and management of the plants, or to apply within the fields of agriculture, forestry, horticulture, medicine and biotechnology.

Marine Biologist

Marine biologists study all aspects of life within the sea and connected saltwater rivers and lakes, including how they are affected by environmental factors.

Veterinarian

Veterinarians treat sicknesses and injury in all animals. They may offer advice on ways to prevent illness, increase health or to stop diseases from spreading. They may also be involved in the safety standards of food supplies.

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry www.daff.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) www.csiro.au

Local government Victoria www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au

Earthwatch Institute www.earthwatch.org/australia

Parks Victoria www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Phillip Island Nature Parks Australia www.penguins.org.au

Zoos Victoria www.zoo.org.au

Greencorp www.greencorp.com

Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit http://agbu.une.edu.au

Australian National Geographic www.australiangeographic.com.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Environmental Jobs Network www.environmentaljobs.com.au

Envirojobs www.envirojobs.com.au

Science Alert www.sciencealert.com.au

New Scientist Jobs www.newscientistjobs.com/jobs

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

The Environment Institute of Australia and NZ www.eianz.org

The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia www.apesma.asn.au

Reef and Rainforest Research Centre www.reef.crc.org.au

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) www.acfonline.org.au

Ecological Society of Australia www.ecolsoc.org.au

Australian Mammal Society www.australianmammals.org.au

Australian Herpetological Society www.ahs.org.au

CRC CARE www.crccare.com

Total Environment Centre www.tec.org.au

Planet Ark www.planetark.org

Friends of the Zoos www.fotz.org.au

Ecotourism Australia www.ecotourism.org.au