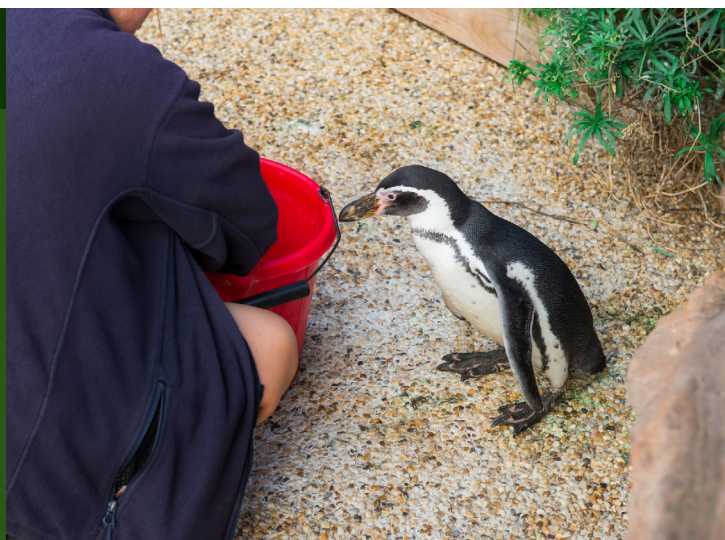




## Keeper and Aquarist

Industry:	Land-Based
Lantra code:	ST0789
Level:	3
Typical duration:	24 months (not including EPA period)
Funding band:	£7,000 maximum
EPA cost:	£1,400
Venue:	Workplace



### Introduction to this Apprenticeship Standard

**The Apprentice will be employed in zoos, wildlife parks, aquariums, private animal collections, animal reserves, and farms with a zoo licence. A Keeper and Aquarist will have a strong work ethic and show respect and empathy for both people and animals.**

The role of a Keeper or Aquarist will include: interpreting diet sheets, preparing and delivering animal feeds; servicing, cleaning and managing animal environments; providing species specific habitats and routines for animals in line with their natural history; observing and understanding animal behaviour, animal health and welfare, recording and reporting findings; checking enclosure and other work areas for potential or existing hazards; engaging with visitors and stakeholders, tailoring information to the audience.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for the everyday care and husbandry of the animals within the collection. They will understand species specific behaviours and needs and the basics of animal training. In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with volunteers, animal keepers who are less experienced and more experienced, management, veterinary staff, staff from other departments, colleagues from other zoological collections and members of the public. Keepers and Aquarists will also be required to encourage public engagement with wildlife, conservation breeding and conservation education. They will be required to research, gather and present information for educational presentations relating to the species in their area and to promote understanding with different audiences such as visitors and other internal stakeholders. This may be done through presentations and demonstrations with the animals, explaining different characteristics of the animals to visitors.

The Apprentice will be expected to complete day-to-day tasks using their initiative, within a specific time period. It is likely it may involve unsociable hours and working outside in all weather conditions.



### On Programme Apprentice Activity and Tracking

Apprentices will need to develop the occupation standard's knowledge, skills and behaviours in order to achieve this Apprenticeship:

- **A Portfolio** – detailing the progress made in learning knowledge, skills and behaviours, providing evidence that meets the Apprenticeship Standard.
- **A record of Off the Job Training** – this is training that must occur for a minimum of 20% of the time the Apprentice is paid to work and is training delivered outside of their normal working duties – to develop a wider understanding of the industry. From 1 August 2022, the minimum volume of hours will no longer be linked to working hours; instead, it will be a consistent figure, irrespective of the hours worked by the Apprentice. This will be six hours per week (this figure was chosen as it represents 20 per cent of 30 hours, which all part-time Apprentices are currently doing). The six hours per week is for calculation purposes only; once calculated the programme can still be delivered flexibly. This change must not dilute the existing requirement – to provide the right level of training to every Apprentice. The volume of training that is delivered must be guided by the initial assessment of the Apprentice and this may mean that an Apprentice trains for more than six hours per week.

The on-programme Portfolio must include, as minimum, evidence of work that has required the Apprentice to demonstrate the range of skills, knowledge and behaviours as of the standards. The Portfolio is mandatory, will not be graded as part of the End Point Assessment, but will underpin the professional discussion.



## Mandatory Qualifications

- Apprentices without English and Mathematics at Level 2 must achieve the Level 2 English and Mathematics prior to taking their EPA.



## Gateway Criteria

The Apprentice will be entered for EPA once the employer is satisfied that requirements of the standards have been met and can be evidenced to an End Point Assessment Organisation, and that the Apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the standard:

- Apprentices must complete and submit their Portfolio prior to taking their End Point Assessment.
- Evidence of Off the Job Training – for a minimum of 20% of the time they are paid to work and is training delivered outside normal working duties. From 1 August 2022, the minimum volume of hours will no longer be linked to working hours; instead, it will be a consistent figure, irrespective of the hours worked by the Apprentice. This will be six hours per week. The six hours per week is for calculation purposes only; once calculated the programme can still be delivered flexibly. This change must not dilute the existing requirement – to provide the right level of training to every Apprentice. The volume of training that is delivered must be guided by the initial assessment of the Apprentice and this may mean that an Apprentice trains for more than six hours per week.
- Apprentices without English and Mathematics at Level 2 must achieve Level 1 English and Mathematics and take the tests for Level 2 prior to Gateway.



## Gateway Declaration

The Lantra Awards Gateway Declaration form must be completed, signed and dated by the Employer, Apprentice and Training Provider and uploaded onto ACE360 as part of the EPA registration process prior to the EPA taking place.

## End Point Assessment (EPA) – Demonstrating Learning

The End Point Assessment consists of 3 components in the sequence as follows:

<b>Multiple-Choice Test</b>	The online multiple-choice test consists of 25 closed response (multiple-choice) questions to be completed within 50 minutes under controlled conditions.
<b>Observational Practical Assessment</b>	<p>Post gateway, during the EPA period, the Apprentice will be required to conduct an animal contact situation with a visitor, or live audience. This will be documented by video recording to be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the observational practical assessment.</p> <p>During the observational practical assessment, the Apprentice will be observed one-to-one by the Independent End Point Assessor, completing 5 practical tasks (Diets, Servicing an Enclosure/Tank, Enrichment, Animal Training, and the review of the submitted Animal Contact Situation video) in controlled conditions. The practical tasks are designed to cover knowledge, skills and behaviours assigned to this assessment component in the standards and will include verbal questioning by the Assessor during allocated questioning times at the end of each task.</p> <p>The practical observation with questions and answers is conducted within 3 hours, within set times for each task. It will be carried out in the Apprentice's normal workplace under controlled conditions.</p>
<b>Professional Discussion</b>	<p>The professional discussion is a 90-minute structured one-to-one discussion under controlled conditions between the Apprentice and the Assessor.</p> <p>The discussion enables the Apprentice to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and behaviours assigned to this component. The Apprentice's portfolio will underpin the professional discussion.</p>



## Apprenticeship Certification

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Certificates are issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and sent directly to the Apprentice's employer.



## How Lantra can help

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- We are specialists in environmental and land-based industries
- We offer good value and cost-effective EPA
- Our Assessors meet and exceed the requirements of the assessment plan
- We offer our service across the whole of England
- We use ACE360 - an apprenticeship standards management system - to manage EPA
- We are experts in the delivery of Apprenticeship Frameworks and National Occupational Standards
- With a 40-year history, delivering high quality, specialist support to the land-based industries is in our DNA.

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**[www.lantra.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.lantra.co.uk/apprenticeships)**

