Ensuring populations are viable and sustainable is a key goal of a Zoological Institution. The Population Biology Programme at Chester Zoo helps provide evidence and answers research questions to help manage species populations ex-situ across zoos, and in-situ with Chester Zoo’s field programmes. This placement will provide valuable training and experience that will be essential for all aspiring conservationists.

Working with the Lead Conservation Scientist and Conservation Scientist – Population Biology in a team environment, the Population Biology Placement will:

- conduct a specific Population Biology research project. This could include diverse areas such as population monitoring, viability and sustainability; best practice for species husbandry; and population reintroductions or reinforcement. These will be related to either zoo populations or as part of our field conservation programmes.
- potential opportunities to attend conferences to present your project.
- Analyse data, report findings and write summary articles and documents for a range of stakeholders, potentially including the opportunity to be part of peer-reviewed publications.

Key personal qualities:
- A passion for biodiversity conservation and the role of zoos in conservation.
- Being highly organised and proactive in your approach to work.
- An interest in using and analysing data to answer scientific questions.
- The ability to search for, and synthesise, scientific literature.
- Willingness to write and deliver oral presentations in a clear, concise and engaging manner.
- A desire to learn how science can be used to help support and inform conservation in a zoo setting.
- Experience of using Microsoft Office software such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook and statistical software such as R.

All industrial placements are full-time voluntary positions for 12 months, commencing September 2021. Although no direct animal contact takes place in this role, you will attend monthly workshops to gain wider knowledge of modern zoo management.

This opportunity is only available to those studying at a UK university on a degree programme with an industrial year. To apply please submit a CV and covering letter detailing your qualifications, interest in the position and your university and degree programme by email to Dr Leah Williams (research@chesterzoo.org)

Closing date for applications is 19th November 2021 and interviews will be held shortly after.