

Nutritionist

What skills you need to do your job	Problem solving, planning, communication, science, maths.
What do you love about your job?	Helping all kinds of animals across the zoo with their diets - fish and tortoises, bears and bats, elephants and birds alike.
What's hard about your job?	The maths can be tricky sometimes. Communication can be hard, as sometimes I need to talk to lots of people about certain things (keepers, curators, vets, managers etc) and it can be hard getting answers from so many people.
Any tools you need for your job:	A computer - for research, documentation/records, emails, data entry/analysis and more. A calculator - for working out food measurements. Storage crates/tubs, bowls, weighing scales, chopping boards and knives.
Why your job matters for wildlife	Understanding nutrition directly impacts all animals in zoos, as the better the diets we provide the more benefits in health, behaviour and welfare we will see.
What subjects you enjoyed at school:	Science but particularly biology and chemistry. I also liked psychology to understand more about behaviour and training.
Interesting fact about your job:	I get to work alongside the keepers and with the animals to get to know what they are eating, how they are eating and how food is presented etc, it is not common in other jobs to work with so many species.



Top tip for working with wildlife:
Gain practical experience with animals—even if you don't work directly with them. Help care for pets, visit zoos and wildlife parks, watch nature documentaries, and volunteer at animal rescues when you're older. Focus on maths and science, especially biology and chemistry if you want to become a nutritionist.