

## Work Based Learning (WBL) Placement Description

### Host Details

<b>Host Organisation</b>	Reptile Encounters
<b>Placement Title</b>	Animal Keeper
<b>Placement Location</b>	Onsite
<b>Address (if onsite)</b>	2 Leslie Crt, Burwood, VIC 3125
<b>Primary Supervisor Name</b>	Catherine Mallia
<b>Position Title</b>	Education Manager
<b>Host Organisation Website</b>	www.reptileencounters.com.au

**Host Organisation Background:**

Reptile Encounters is primarily an interactive educational business holding demonstrations and educating schools and the public on native wildlife. We also host a program through the NDIS where neurodivergent kids and young adults work with our zookeepers to learn skills in caring for wildlife. It was established in 2007. Our vision is for Reptile Encounters to inspire and educate the next generations to save our planet.

### Placement Details

<b>Placement Semester/Term</b>	Term 6 2024
<b>Start Date</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
<b>End Date</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
<b>Days/hours per week</b>	
<b>Hours (total)</b>	100 hours
<b>Placement Type</b>	Unpaid

*The host and successful student will have an opportunity to negotiate placement start and end dates, as well as days of the week that align to the Term or Semester dates that the student is enrolled in prior to commencing the placement.*

**Desired Course Discipline/Background**

Preferred degree/areas of study:

Enrolled in a relevant Bachelor degree specialising in animal science, zoology, ecology or conservation

**Key Duties and Responsibilities**

**Placement Description**

Students will have the opportunity to gain practical industry-based work experience at Reptile Encounters where they will apply their discipline knowledge and problem-solving skills, communicate effectively in a professional context with people from different backgrounds and work as part of a team to facilitate the achievement of projects and organisational outcomes. Duties will include:

- Habitat and enclosure cleaning and maintenance – raking, scrubbing, sweeping, hosing down, window cleaning etc.

- Assisting with food preparation for a variety of species
- Preparing and assisting with animal enrichment for a variety of species
- Animal observations and monitoring health and behaviour
- Interacting with kindergartens, primary and secondary schools or members of the public
- Assisting RE staff and gaining an understanding of their role
- Interacting with participants with Autism Spectrum Disorder that work with us learning zookeeping skills

Depending on availability it may also be possible for students to spend some time undertaking school and community visits  
At the end of the training period, students are expected to gain practical and theoretical knowledge of animal keeping, guest experience and conservation.

### Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Enthusiasm to learn
- Passion for Animals and Conservation
- Enjoy working outdoors
- Friendly and reliable
- Attention to detail

Desired:

- Experience working in the disability sector
- Basic knowledge of Australian native species

### Pre-Placement Compliance Checks & Requirements

- Police Check
- Working With Children Check (WWCC)
- Other (Resume/CV)
- None

### Work Based Learning (WBL) – Subject Information and Requirements

<b>Subject Code</b>	LTU3IND
<b>Subject Information</b>	
<b>Subject Prerequisites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed 120 credit points of your degree</li> <li>• Have 1 elective space in your course plan</li> </ul>

### How to Apply

**Application Deadline: 25 September 2024**

**Application Instructions:**

Please provide:

- CV/Resume
- Cover letter. Please address why you are interested in this placement opportunity.
- Apply through the following link: [Industry Placement Application Form, Careers and Opportunities, La Trobe University](#)

For help with your cover letter and resume - [Resumes and job applications, Careers and Opportunities, LTU](#)

*Thank you for considering a Work Based Learning Placement!*