

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
MANCHESTER MUSEUM
DIVISION OF CURATORIAL
CURATOR OF ZOOLOGY
VACANCY REF: CIX-027731

Salary:	Grade 6 £36,924 to £45,163 (pro rata) per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	0.6 FTE
Duration:	Permanent
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Georgina Young, Head of Collections and Exhibitions

Email: Georgina.Young@manchester.ac.uk

Overall Purpose of the Job:

To develop and provide access to Manchester Museum's internationally significant Zoology collections, bringing a diligent and engaging approach to building research and sharing knowledge around them. To support Manchester Museum's mission to build a more sustainable world and understanding between cultures; working collaboratively with colleagues and partners to reconnect nature and culture and champion biodiversity. To create inclusive content and experiences – from podcasts to exhibitions – that are imaginative and engaging, sparking dialogue with audiences locally and globally.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:

Collections Research and Development

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the Zoology collection, estimated at 1 million preserved animals. Manchester Museum's Zoology collection covers all zoological specimens excluding arthropods, which fall under the responsibilities of the Curator of Entomology.
- Responsible for the key collections management, care, safety, legal and ethical issues relevant to the Zoology collection with consideration for the wide range of specimens with different preservations (e.g. spirit, taxidermy, microscope slides etc.).
- Support the curation of the wider Natural Sciences collections, providing oversight and guidance for Curatorial Assistants as required
- Work with colleagues within the University of Manchester and beyond to develop strategic research relationships and projects.
- Engage with the decolonisation of natural sciences collections, including participating in our ongoing Indigenising Manchester Museum programme
- Establish collections development priorities and consider offers to the collection and disposals from the collection, building cases with care
- Respond to a wide range of research enquiries and loan requests drawing upon the collection

Interpretation and Imagination

- Lead and deliver exhibition projects, working with designers, partners and community members, colleagues across the museum, and other interested parties
- Design and deliver in-person and digital public engagement around the Zoology collection, particularly bringing your expertise to bear on the climate and biodiversity crises and supporting the museum's programmes, from school sessions to commercial tour bookings
- Propose and deliver changes to existing museum interpretation, both on-gallery and digital, with a particular focus on the Living Worlds gallery
- Contribute imaginatively to University of Manchester teaching, including field courses, and make the most of the museum and its collections to enhance the student experience

Networks and Relationship Building

- Work closely with the Environmental Action Manager and co-develop impactful work with researchers, co-workers, artists, social enterprises, and charities resident on the Museum's Top Floor

- Represent the museum in connection with the Zoology collections locally, nationally, and internationally, including at relevant conferences and symposia.
- Forge and maintain international networks in relation to the Zoology collections and the strategic priorities of Manchester Museum, including occasional overseas travel.
- Conceptualise and develop funding bids to further Manchester Museum's mission and work with the museum and university Development teams to secure investment
- Support the museum's communications strategy, including our commitment to open dialogue and thinking in public
- Collaborate with the Retail team to ensure commercial opportunities within the Zoology collection are explored and that the collection is represented in our commercial offer

Management and Care

- Contribute to the formulation of key museum policies and strategies, and to local and national sector development
- Work with Curatorial Assistants and the Conservation and Collections Access team to ensure the collection is appropriately managed and made accessible, providing for its day-to-day care and documentation
- Progress the digitization of the Zoology collection, from unlocking natural science collections data at scale to intensive projects that build stories and knowledge around specimens
- Collect and share data on a regular basis for a variety of purposes, for example planning and evaluation, and reporting to external funders and partners
- Comply with legislation relating to health and safety at work and follow local instruction in relation to safe working practice, completing Health and Safety assessments and reports in accordance with university policy.
- Manage staff, volunteers, honorary postholders and placement holders as required.

General

- Undertake such other duties, as requested by the line manager, consistent with the responsibility and grading of the post
- Undertake professional development, where necessary
- Be actively committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion

Person Specification

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- A degree or equivalent experience in Zoology, Biology or an allied subject that demonstrates a solid foundation in ecology, taxonomy, and fieldwork
- An imaginative and creative approach to museum interpretation
- Demonstrable expertise in a specialist area of zoology
- Skills in handling fragile historic specimens, and in collecting and mounting new specimens
- Experience of communicating research and complex narratives to wide ranging audiences
- Demonstrable digital skills including proficiency in the use of biological and collections databases
- Ability to build trust and maintain relationships with colleagues and partners
- Experience of museum collections development, including acquisitions, disposals, and loans
- Experience of ethical practice as it relates to this role, for instance in the areas of sustainability of species and Indigenous engagement
- Demonstrable teamworking skills, including leading project teams and/or task and finish groups
- Knowledge and understanding of collections digitisation and the potentials of widening digital access to collections

Desirable

- Knowledge and understanding of co-production and its application and value in museums
- Ability to pursue and disseminate own research, which may be demonstrated through a post-graduate degree or a track record in collections-based research
- Experience of teaching at FE and HE level
- Experience managing people

Personal Qualities

- Demonstrable commitment to equity, solidarity and justice and the ability to work effectively with a diverse team
- Motivation to work under own initiative and collaboratively with colleagues across the museum

- Commitment to including sustainable practices in the role and contributing to the museum's actions for a more sustainable world