



Student Placement Program

The student placement program at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary offers students the opportunity to experience the daily responsibilities and routines of a wildlife keeper. Students will have a true passion for Australian wildlife and be ready to take on an incredibly fulfilling and unique opportunity to contribute to wildlife conservation.

Who can apply?

To join the Student Placement Program, applicants must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be currently enrolled in tertiary studies in the animal wildlife field
- Demonstrate a high level of physical fitness and be comfortable with tasks involving prolonged standing, bending, lifting, and twisting
- Be reliable, responsible, and capable of working both independently and as part of a team
- Have a friendly and outgoing nature
- Be comfortable working outdoors in all weather conditions, including heat, humidity, and rain
- Be able to work in environments with dust, vegetation, insects, and close proximity to animals
- Have strong English language skills (written and verbal)
- Be able to follow written and verbal instructions accurately
- Have regular access to email communication

Student Placement Availability

- The student placement program runs Mon – Fri only
- Minimum requirement is 5 days, up to 10-day placements and must be completed in 5-day consecutive blocks eg:
- Mon – Fri in one week for a 5-day placement
- Mon – Fri within 2 weeks for a 10-day placement

Positions are limited and subject to availability.

We recommend applying early to secure your spot. Please allow enough time to book into a mandatory induction session, which is held once a month on Sundays at 2:30pm.



Wildlife Sections

Volunteers begin by assisting in the animal sections below in this order. Progression is determined by performance and assessed by wildlife keepers.



- Birds



- Macropods



- Barn



- Mammals



- Koalas

Please note: All students must attend a mandatory induction session prior to commencing the program. These are held monthly on Sundays at 2:30 P.M and must be booked in advance.

Student Placement Duties

Husbandry

Wildlife keepers spend most of their day cleaning animal exhibits and making sure they are well maintained. You will be assisting with the following:

- Cleaning enclosures (removing waste, hosing, sweeping, raking)
- Weeding, mulching, and substrate changes in exhibits
- Removing cobwebs and cleaning glass
- Exhibit maintenance, including painting

Food Preparation

Preparing food for animals is another major part of being a wildlife keeper. You will be assisting with the following:

- Cutting fruits, vegetables, and meat
- Washing and drying animal dishes
- Collecting browse (leaves, flowers, grasses)



General Sanctuary Assistance

Students may be asked to assist with some of the following tasks

- Supporting and monitoring visitors in the kangaroo reserve
- General grounds maintenance (rubbish removal, drain clearing, garden upkeep)
- Assisting guests with enquiries and photo opportunities

Student Placement Daily Schedule

- Students shifts run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Includes a 20-minute morning tea break and a 30-minute lunch break
- Volunteers may bring their own meals or purchase food from our onsite cafes
- There are 2 allocated volunteer break areas, indoors and outdoors

If you are unable to attend your scheduled shift, please notify Sandy McStay at sandymc@koala.net or call (07) 3378 1366.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I complete my placement in the animal hospital, reptiles or raptor section?

No. Our wildlife hospital, reptiles and raptor sections are not equipped to accept students.

Will I be handling animals?

No. Students cannot be trained in animal handling.

Is there a cost to volunteer?

No. Uniform shirts are provided free of charge but must be returned at the end of the program.

Do I need health insurance?

Lone Pine cannot cover any costs related to accidents or injuries that may occur during your time in the program. If you are not already covered by an insurance policy through your university, school, or organisation, we recommend obtaining private travel or health insurance before participating.



What Should I Wear?

- Volunteer shirt (provided)
- Comfortable, modest work-appropriate pants or shorts (no rips, mesh, or low-rise styles)
- Fully enclosed shoes (e.g., joggers, hiking boots)
- Hat, raincoat, sunglasses
- Optional: sunscreen and insect repellent (available onsite, but personal preferences welcome)

Is Accommodation & Transport Provided?

No. Free parking is available. Public transport options are accessible via Brisbane City Council buses. Visit www.translink.com.au for details.

Is There Free Wi-Fi & Secure Storage?

Yes. Free WiFi is available throughout the sanctuary. Lockers are provided; please bring your own padlock.

Does Lone Pine Assist with Visas or Sponsorships?

No. Visa and insurance arrangements must be managed independently prior to arrival.

How to Apply

Simply complete the [Student Placement Application Form](#) and email it to Sandy McStay at sandymc@koala.net. You will be notified of your application outcome via email. Please do not follow up by phone or additional emails.

Contact Details

Sandy McStay

Head of Birds | Wildlife Volunteer Coordinator

✉ sandymc@koala.net

📍 Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

708 Jesmond Road, Fig Tree Pocket QLD 4069, Australia