Entry Requirements

Students of this course must have the New South Wales School Certificate (or equivalent) as a minimum; and have completed Certificate II in Animal Studies, or have worked in the animal care industry for a minimum of one year.

Students of this course must also be able to demonstrate good English skills (both verbal and written) and basic numeracy skills.

Access to an animal care workplace is also a requirement to enable the practical components of the course to be undertaken. For students of the Taronga Conservation Society Australia’s Taronga Training Institute, this workplace is required to be Taronga Zoo (Sydney). In this regard, all enrolled students of the Taronga Training Institute will be assured the required and planned access to Taronga Zoo.

A satisfactory health assessment is required to place you as an Intern Keeper at Taronga Zoo.

Who is the course provider?

The Taronga Conservation Society Australia’s Taronga Training Institute provides this Certificate III course, which is a Registered Training Organisation No. 91359. The Taronga Conservation Society Australia is a leading zoological institution and operates both Taronga Zoo (Sydney) and Taronga Western Plains Zoo (Dubbo).

Where is the course held?

The course’s classroom sessions are conducted once per fortnight at Taronga Zoo, Bradleys Head Road, Mosman, Sydney. Students are also required to attend Taronga Zoo one day per week to perform the daily duties of an intern Keeper under supervision.

How much does the course cost?

$5,800 ($400 discount for upfront payment)
(or 2 x yearly instalments of $2,900)
(Note: GST is not applicable as this vocational course is nationally accredited).

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) / Recognition of Current Competency (RCC)

The Taronga Training Institute provides a process for assessing and recognising prior learning/current competency, which is the acknowledgement of an individual’s current skills and knowledge acquired through previous training, work and/or life experience. The Taronga Training Institute provides a person eligible for RPL with an RPL Kit that details the evidence that must be supplied by the individual to enable their competency to be assessed and determined by a qualified assessor of the Taronga Training Institute. Please contact the Taronga Training Institute for information on RPL fees. Students will be charged an administration cost for an RPL Application.

How to Enrol

To enrol in the Certificate III in Captive Animals complete the Taronga Training Institute Enrolment Application Form 2011 which can be obtained by phone on 9978 4746, email at tti@zoo.nsw.gov.au or visiting the Taronga Conservation Society Australia’s website at www.taronga.org.au

Refund Policy

Students are advised to give careful consideration to their course enrolment decision as enrolled students are only eligible for a full refund of course fees if the Taronga Training Institute cancels the course; or if the student advises of their cancellation at least thirty (30) working days prior to the commencement date of the course. An administration fee of $100 will apply to students who cancel their enrolment.

Withdrawal Policy

Students wanting to withdraw are required to do so in writing. Where a student has elected to withdraw, the balance of their course fees is payable within 30 days of their notice of withdrawal.

Deferral Policy

Students wanting to defer may do so for a period of six (6) months only. A position will only be held for a deferring student if the course fees due have been paid on the original due dates. Where a student elects to defer, they are required to do so in writing with an indication of a date of return to the course.
This Certificate III level course is designed for those who are interested in pursuing a career as a Zoo Keeper in the animal care industry.

Typical duties of Keepers include the daily care of animals including preparing animal diets; feeding; training and conditioning; monitoring and maintaining health; capturing, restraining and assisting in moving animals; monitoring reproduction; maintaining animal exhibits and housing; monitoring behavioural needs; implementing improved husbandry; and assisting in animal collection management. Keepers also interact with the public, providing educational information and experiences to visitors.

Course Number and Name

RUV30204 - Certificate III in Captive Animals
Units of Competency

Core Units
RUV3101A  Carry out workplace OH&S procedures
RUV3402A  Work within a captive animal institution
RUV3403A  Prepare and present information to the public
RUV3404A  Assist with collection management
RUV3406A  Prepare and maintain animal housing
RUV3408A  Prepare animal diets and monitor feeding
RUV3409A  Monitor and maintain animal health
RUV3410A  Capture, restrain and assist in moving animals

Elective Units
RUV3405A  Develop an institutional husbandry manual
RUV3407A  Maintain exhibits and assist in their design
RUV3411A  Care for young animals
RUV3413A  Condition animals

Note: All 14 units (core and elective) must be completed to gain the Certificate III in Captive Animals.

Duration

The course is presented over a two-year period, with classroom sessions conducted once per fortnight. Students are also required to attend Taronga Zoo one day per week to perform the daily duties of an intern Keeper under supervision. Students will also be required to undertake course work in their own time.

Assessments

Course assessments are a combination of written answers to questions, reports, projects, observations of students performing tasks, and supervisor reports.

Content

The Certificate III course covers the essential duties of a Keeper in the animal care industry. Included are the following topics:

- Working safely in a captive animal institution
- Preparing and presenting information to the public
- Assisting with animal collection management
- Preparing and maintaining animal housing/exhibits
- Animal exhibit design
- Preparing animal diets and feeding routines
- Animal health and behavioural needs
- General health and well being of young animals
- Capturing, restraining and moving animals

Pathways

Upon successful completion of RUV30204 Certificate III in Captive Animals, further study options may be available external to TTI including RUV40204 Certificate IV in Captive Animals and RUV50104 Diploma of Animal Technology.

Photography by Lynne Roberts-Goodwin except: Elephant, Meerkat and Spider Monkey by Suzanne Nielsen.