

Samantha Foster
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Second year Palaeontology undergraduate at the University of Portsmouth, passionate about palaeontological illustration and Tetrapod evolution, looking to gain museum based experience

Education and Qualifications

2017– 2020 BSc Hons Palaeontology, University of Portsmouth

Course covers both theory and methodology of palaeontology as well as a solid foundation in geology and is accredited by the Geological Society of London.

Field Trips: Have participated in several field trips namely to Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and the Isle of Wight where skills such as keeping a field notebook, fossil identification and the methodological recording of geological and sedimentological data and geological mapping using a comp clinometer and a GPS location finder

Lab skills: These include identifying specimens in thin sections using light microscopes, use of a scanning electron microscope as well as organism identification, illustration and description for museum curation purposes, together with fossil preservation techniques including plaster casts and latex peels

IT skills: Used packages such as Microsoft Excel and PAST to carry out statistical analysis and CorelDraw to produce sedimentary logs and SEM slides and Microsoft Access for database creation

Classification skills: Analysing and interpreting igneous and metamorphic rocks and minerals in order to classify them based on their physical and chemical characteristics

Other skills: Developing the ability to communicate complex scientific information to individuals and to participate in group activities, making presentations and responding to questions in a professional manner as well as gaining experience of researching around topics and writing scientific reports that demonstrate accurate field observation techniques along with the ability to produce detailed sketches and drawings

2015 – 2017 A levels in Geography, Chemistry and Biology Diss Sixth Form College

2010 – 2015 10 GCSEs including Maths, English and Science Diss High School

Experience

Part time Customer Service Assistant, Sainsburys - 2018 – present

- Working in the Bakery department has further developed my communication and team working skills
- Trained to work in kiosk and the customer service desk during busy times and as a result have developed the ability to deal with customer complaints in a timely and professional manner
- Developed the confidence to deal with a wide variety of people when assisting with customers with shopping queries

Volunteer at Diss Museum, Norfolk - 2016-2018

- Learnt about the learnt about museum curation processes when helping to prepare anoxic storage for fossils
- Provided support for a series of events organised by the museum thereby gaining an insight into event management. Experience included events such as Fossil Days as well as an open evening for benefactors and as a result have gained skills in science communication
- Conducted preliminary research on several exhibits to help make the visitor experience more fulfilling and informative
- Received training so that I could conduct tours for persons with disabilities

Young Leader 1st Diss Scout Unit - 2015 – 2017

- Organised and assisted with the running of a range of enjoyable activities for the scout group
- Developed and maintained effective relationships with both the parents/carers of the scouting troupe and the scouts themselves
- Taught skills such as knot tying, map reading as well as life skills such as problem solving and communication skills

Work experience at the John Innes Norwich - 2014

- Worked for a week shadowing microbial scientists in their research
- Gained experience in using microscopes and recording data while assisting a researcher
- Learnt a great deal about how large organisations operate and what working life is like

Interests

- Avid reader and watcher of the science fiction and fantasy genre – enjoy seeking out communities to discuss these with and organising meet ups at comic conventions
- Interested in sewing and enjoy making costumes inspired by books and films to wear and display at conventions
- Nature lover, enjoy visiting conservation and wildlife parks to observe interesting animals and plant life, learning to identify wild-growing plants in urban areas

References available on request