

Conservation

Iain Valentine



Job title:
Director of Animal Conservation and Research

Company:
Edinburgh Zoo

Qualifications: Degree in Biological Sciences

Working collaboratively helps us all to better understand a species.

Iain's advice:

- Consider courses in Veterinary Medicine or Biological Sciences.
- Gain practical experience through voluntary work.
- Give yourself an advantage and learn another language.
- Gain confidence in languages by reading newspapers and watching the news.
- Be yourself! Friendliness and being genuine are important, as are politeness and respect.

More information:

Iain's full job profile
bit.ly/sciltiainvalentine

Other careers with languages
bit.ly/sciltjobprofiles

Studying languages beyond school
www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool.aspx

Careers in Life Sciences
www.myworldofwork.co.uk/the-life-sciences-industry

My World of Work
www.myworldofwork.co.uk/

Edinburgh Zoo
www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/

An understanding of Chinese language and culture were invaluable in this Conservationist's work securing the pandas for Edinburgh Zoo.

What role has language learning played in your career?

Learning Chinese and, above all, understanding the culture of China is deeply connected to my passion for conservation. Whatever happens in China will have a big impact on conservation issues in the rest of the world.

How do languages impact your current job?

Chinese language and culture are inseparable. That is what makes it so interesting. The arrival of the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo is a great example of the impact of an appreciation of the culture of another country. It took six years for us to secure the pandas, and an understanding of Chinese culture and a respect for the Chinese way of doing things was crucial.

We work closely with research centres in China.