

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, and provides a solid foundation in geology, accredited by the Geological Society of London.

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, sedimentological data, and geological mapping, using a comp clinometer and GPS location finder.

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

IT skills: Microsoft Excel and PAST to prepare statistical analysis, 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, ability to classify based on physical and chemical characteristics.

Other skills: Developing ability to communicate complex scientific information to individuals and participate in group activities, creating presentations and responding to questions in a professional manner. Gained experience of researching around topics, 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

Relevant work experience

Volunteer at Diss Museum, Norfolk - 2016-2018

- Learnt about museum curation processes when helping to prepare anoxic storage for fossils.
- Facilitated a series of events organised by the museum, gaining an insight into event management. Events included Fossil Days and an open evening for benefactors, gaining skills in science communication.
- Conducted preliminary research on exhibits to help the visitor experience be more fulfilling and informative.
- Received training to conduct tours for persons with disabilities.

Work experience at the John Innes Norwich – 2014

- Shadowed and gained insight to microbial scientist's research.
- Obtained experience with microscopes and recording data while assisting a researcher.
- Learnt a great deal about how large organisations operate and what working life is like.

Other work experience

Part time Customer Service Assistant, Sainsburys - 2018 – present

- Collaborating in the Bakery department has further developed communication and team working skills.
- Trained on kiosk and 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.
- Communicated with a variety of people when assisting customers with shopping queries.

Young Leader 1st Diss Scout Unit - 2015 – 2017

- Arranged and facilitated running a range of enjoyable activities for Scout group.
- Developed and maintained effective relationships with both parents/carers of scouting Troop, and Scouts.
- Taught Scout skills such as knot tying, map reading, and life skills such as problem solving and communication.

Interests

- Avid reader and watcher of the science fiction and fantasy genre – seek out communities to discuss these with, and organising meet ups at comic conventions.
- Interested in sewing and 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