

### Animal Nutritionist

**Animal nutritionists use their scientific knowledge to advise on the effect of diet on animal health and wellbeing**

Your role as an animal nutritionist is to promote a better understanding of the effect of diet on the health, wellbeing and productivity of animals. You'll be most active in the field of agriculture, where you'll provide advice and information on animal nutrition and design and evaluate the diets of the animals in question.



#### **Skills:**

You'll need to show:

- an understanding of the scientific basis of nutrition
- familiarity with analysing data and writing reports
- the ability to conduct research in a safe, ethical and reliable manner
- the capability to formulate and communicate ideas
- the capacity to form long-term relationships with customers and clients
- business-management, time-management and personal-development skills
- advanced numeracy, IT and internet skills
- drive, perseverance, dedication and a willingness to work long hours.

#### **Qualifications:**

An animal nutritionist requires a degree in science, such as biochemistry, biosciences, dietetics and physiology, health sciences, etc. Some courses that can help increase employability are animal/equine science, animal management, animal studies, animal welfare and behaviour, public health nutrition, veterinary science, zoology and others along those lines. Just having a bachelor's degree in nutrition or science may not be enough depending on the role you are looking for. It is recommended to further increase your understanding with a postgraduate specialisation in nutrition. Some positions may require a PhD. Registering with the Association for Nutrition can help to set you apart from the competition.

#### **Working hours:**

Working hours are varied and may be irregular if visits to farms or clients are required in the evening. Weekend or shift work is not common. Self-employment and freelance or consultancy work may be possible once you've built up a reputation and some substantial experience. It may be possible or necessary to build up a portfolio career, including a combination of employment in commercial research, advising on a freelance or consultancy basis and teaching relevant courses in an agricultural college or university.

#### **Salary:**

- Starting salaries are usually between £18,000 and £22,000.
- The range of typical salaries with around three to five years' experience is £23,000 and £32,000. Sales roles and roles requiring a PhD tend to be on the higher end of the scale.
- Typical salaries for those with several years' experience are between £35,000 and £50,000.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/animal-nutritionist>

