



Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong



University Student Sponsorship Programme 2024-25 (USSP2425)

APPLICATION FORM

Notes to Applicants:

Please put **(1)** your comprehensive resume, **(2)** a copy of your unofficial transcript into **ONE WORD FILE** and return together with **(3)** your completed application form by email to kayson.cm.lo@oceanpark.com.hk no later than **23:59 on October 13, 2024 (Sun)**. Make sure you have submitted all necessary documents listed in this application form. **“USSP2425 Application form submission” must be mentioned in the email’s subject.**

(I) Personal Particulars

Name (CHI):	Name (ENG):
Nationality:	Student ID:
Major:	Year of Study:
Email:	Mobile No.:
University Name:	

(II) Research Project Preference

Please indicate your preferences by writing down “1” for the MOST interested project to “3” or “4” for the least interested project in the boxes provided.

Project Code*		Panda	Cetacean I	Cetacean II	Bird	Terrest I	Terrest II	Mammal	Fish	Marine Mammal	DNA
Preference	Dec 20, 2024 – Jan 31, 2025	/	/					/		/	/
	May 10 – Jun 20, 2025			/		/	/				

You need to check if you are eligible to apply for the visa of the destination before you fill in the preference.

* The project details could be viewed P.4 of the application form.

(III) Using the project code, please state your most interested project* among the whole list, and explain, in no more than 300 words (in English), the reasons behind your preference and your strengths that could help you to win this opportunity.

You may refer to the Appendix 1 for the project list.

Project code: _____

(IV) Please describe, in no more than 200 words (in Chinese), why and how much you want to be one of the USSPers.

(V) Tell us your vision in wildlife conservation, in less than 100 words (in Chinese/English).

(VI) RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT: Please prepare and attach your FULL resume including but not limited to the following categories, together with a copy of your unofficial transcript in a word document.

- Academic programme or research experience
- Conservation-related and non-related programme, working experience, volunteer, internship, responsibility
- Exchange or self-planned travel experience
- Responsibility in school societies or in other organizations
- Qualifications, strength and unique talents (e.g. animal identification, design, photography)

Your application would be graded by OPCFHK. This application form would be counted for 60% and your resume and unofficial transcript would be counted for 40% of the overall marks. The top 60 students would be invited to join a group interview, with the premise that at least two top candidates from each university would be selected for the interview, to ensure students from all universities would get a chance to join the programme.

IMPORTANT DATES to mark on your schedule:

1. **Application deadline – 23:59 Oct 13, 2024 (Sun)**
2. **Interview – Oct 26 or 27, 2024 (Sat or Sun)**, keep an eye on your email to receive more details after submitting your application! You **must attend** the interview to get into the programme!
3. **Orientation day – Nov 9, 2024**, more details will be shared at the orientation. You **must attend** this day to get into the programme!

Personal Information Collection Statement

I/We have also read the Personal Information Collection Statement (<http://www.opcf.org.hk/tc/footer/personal-Information-collection>) of Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong ("OPCFHK"), including the information about the use of my/our personal data in direct marketing. I/We understand that I/we have the right to opt-out from such direct marketing by ticking (✓) the box below. If I/we do not tick the box, OPCFHK may use my/our personal data (primarily my/our name and contact details) in direct marketing products, services, activities and other subjects to me/us (primarily consumer products and services offered by OPCFHK or its business associations or partners) as more particularly set out in the Personal Information Collection Statement.



Please do NOT send direct marketing information to me/us.

Applicant's Signature: _____ (No typed signatures please)

Applicant's Name (In Block Letters): _____ **Date:** _____

Please check your email frequently for the important updates and details of the USSP.

In case of any dispute, the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

Appendix 1: Project list of USSP2425

USSP Code	Supported Species	Location	Trip period	Quota* (Max)	Student tasks^	Physical demand	Environment	Student requirements
Panda	Giant panda	Sichuan, China	10/5/2025-20/06/2025	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the collection and laboratory testing of fresh feces of giant pandas in the wild; Infra-red camera setting; Students need to conduct field trips under the leadership or companionship of teachers with rich field work experience 	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High altitude (1500 - 2500m); Field work in dense forest; Limited or no phone signal; Limited and unstable supply of electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good physical fitness; Must have mountain climbing experience; Ability to swim; Respect the cultural habits/safety suggestions of local people in the scientific research area
Cetacean I	Yangtze Finless Porpoise	China	10/5/2025-20/06/2025	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up infrared cameras; Participate in the on-board cetacean population survey (survey, patrol, feeding, laboratory health research, etc.); Survey on planting slopes related to herbivores; Bird survey in wetlands; Resident questionnaire survey; Video production 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be on boat for long periods work in the aquarium and research institute 	
Cetacean II	Bryde's whale & Chinese white dolphin	Guangxi, China	20/12/2024-31/01/2025	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the on-board cetacean population survey; Video production; Design and organize community education activity 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be on boat for long periods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to stay on boat for long period.
Bird	Asian Dowitcher, Great Knot, Spotted Greenshank	Jiangsu, China	20/12/2024-31/01/2025 / 10/5/2025-20/06/2025	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in shorebirds ecological surveys Design and organize community education activities e.g. fishermen training 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal wetland, such as mudflat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic identification skill of shorebird an advantage.
Terrest I	Shrub Frogs, Agamid lizards, Wild orchids	Sri Lanka	20/12/2024-31/01/2025	4	<p>Amphibian searches and surveys including (nighttime):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record their vocalizations, call analysis, capturing and collecting specimens, sample preservation, taking morphometric measurements, and DNA extraction. <p>Ongoing research projects (daytime):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on Agamid lizards and wild orchids 	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field activities in the central hills, particularly in peak wilderness areas above 1200 m Often encounter temperatures dropping below 10°C during night time, mist, and frequent drizzling. Access to the field site requires approximately a 5-hour hike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial for students to have some field experience, not a strict requirement.
Terrest II	Indian pangolin	Nepal	20/12/2024-31/01/2025	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up and monitor the camera traps for pangolins and other terrestrial mammals Assist in conducting community interview surveys Assist in meetings and discussions with local authorities and officials 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community environment or hill long hours of travel by vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to strong physical fitness.
Mammal	Orangutan	Sebangau (South Borneo Island), Indonesia	10/5/2025-20/06/2025	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about tropical peat-swamp forest emblematic species, ecology and conservation strategies implemented in the Sebangau National Park; Take place through practical activities; Participatory sessions, the different field survey techniques commonly used in primatology and transdisciplinary conservation strategies, while understanding how surveys, land management; Field surveys could include: orangutan nest surveys, bio-indicators surveys (butterflies and dragonflies), camera-trap surveys, phenology surveys, orangutan and gibbon behavior surveys, gibbon song triangulation surveys, etc; Education and community work are all integrated to preserve Borneo's unique ecosystems 	★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forest is quite flooded, making it difficult to walk through. It is easy to lose balance in those conditions, and clothes can stay very wet all day long; Boardwalks on some of the transects, but they can sometimes get a bit slippery, and can also be broken at some places; Surveys are mainly in the morning; Humidity and temperatures are very high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically and mentally fit and able to cope in terrain; Ability to cope with the environment in rainforest and peat swamp forest; Indonesia is a tolerant but socially conservative, religious country, so we ask all students to dress following the country's culture.
Fish	Banggai Cardinalfish	Indonesia	20/12/2024-31/01/2025 / 10/5/2025-20/06/2025	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build artificial structure for reef restoration take measurements and photographs for the ex-situ coral study Support the aquaculture of endangered fish through our captive breeding program Assist in community development efforts, such as teaching English to local children and coastal community; Monitor coral reef restoration 	★★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underwater (scuba diving certificate is required) Laboratory Local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate in scuba diving is preferable.
Marine Mammal (MM)	Dugong	Philippines	10/5/2025-20/06/2025	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seagrass assessment and monitoring; Dugong land-based monitoring; Boat based survey; Community education on dugong conservation 	★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleep in community/ field with tent; Limited freshwater supply in the field; No internet connection in the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to swim; Basic knowledge on science, fieldwork and community living.
DNA	No Specific Species	Malaysia	10/5/2025-20/06/2025	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to different animals' samples; Learn DNA extraction and quality checks from a variety of sources (feathers, faeces, tissues) Amplify DNA samples for mitochondrial loci and on library preparations and have an overview of the sequencing technologies available at Monash University Malaysia Genomics Facility; Short 10-minute presentation at the end of the programme 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily indoor work field works and sample collection with snorkeling (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in laboratory works; Basic knowledge of genetic biology.

Remarks: * Quota for each project is limited but would not affect whether students would get into the programme. The assessment is based on the performance of the application and interview only.

^ Actual tasks may vary subject to weather and research team's arrangements.