



University Student Sponsorship Programme 2024-25

INFORMATION DECK

Prepared by OPCFHK

For enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact
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OCEAN PARK CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, HONG KONG



香港海洋公園保育基金
Ocean Park
Conservation Foundation
Hong Kong



OPCFHK envisions a world where **Asian wildlife** remains **biologically diverse** under the **stewardship of humans, corporations and governments.**

OPCFHK is committed to **advocating, facilitating and participating** in effective conservation of Asian wildlife, with an emphasis on **Chinese white dolphins** and **Giant pandas**, as well as their habitats through **partnerships, fundraising, research and education.**



OCEAN PARK CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, HONG KONG



Fundraising

\$1



Scientific research



Community education





University Student Sponsorship Programme 2024-25

PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION



© Aaron Ng



University Student Sponsorship Programme in Wildlife Conservation (USSP)

© Rachel Cheng



© Zheng Ruiqiang/
Shantou University



© Iris Lai



Between 2004 – 2024
about 450 students to 182 trips
in 15 Asian countries/regions
over the past 15 years!

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage our next generations to **consider a career in conservation** by experiencing a **real-life conservation work** in the field
- To increase the understanding and concern of Hong Kong university students in **local conservation related issues**





PARTICIPATING INSTITUTES



City University of Hong Kong (CityU)

Department of Chemistry

Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

School of Life Sciences

The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)

Department of Science and Environmental Studies

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)

Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

Department of Biology, Department of Geography

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

School of Science

The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

The Swire Institute of Marine Science

Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU)

School of Science and Technology

Lingnan University





PROGRAMME TIMELINE



**SEP – OCT
2024**
Enrollment

OCT 2024
Selection

NOV 2024
Orientation

DEC 24 – JUN 25
LOCAL &
OVERSEA TRIPS

JUL 25
GRADUATION

**USSP is a one-year programme
NOT just 2 weeks**

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Oct 13 23:59

**Application
deadline**

Oct 26, 27

Interview

Oct 31

Result release

Nov 9 PM

Orientation



**Check your
email!**



Note the deadline!



**Think about the project you are
most interested in and why
should you be selected**

Field Trip Periods

Winter

Dec 20, 2024
Jan 31, 2025

Summer

May 5, 2025
Jun 20, 2025

Within 10 – 14 days



Up to **HKD\$10,000 sponsorship** to join a **local research team out of Hong Kong** for 10 - 14 days



Experience **frontline conservation and research**



Meet and network with local community and fellow university students



Support the conservation work of some of **THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED ANIMALS**



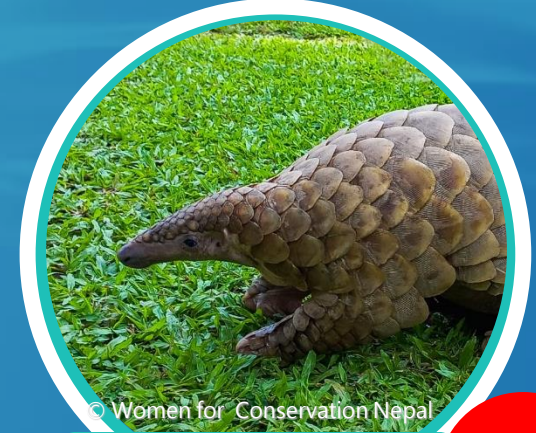
Yangtze Finless Porpoise

CR



Spoon-billed Sandpiper

CR



© Women for Conservation Nepal

Indian Pangolin

EN



© Tiffany Fung

Dugong

VU



© 李德生

Giant Panda

VU



©Gayatri Lilley

Banggai cardinalfish

EN

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Design and implement
conservation campaign



Meet local conservationists
and fellow university students



Networking with our
USSP alumni



If you are selected...



CLOTHING



FOOD



SHELTER



TRANSPORT/WORK



University Student Sponsorship Programme 2023-24

PROJECT SHOWCASE



Giant panda

Blood transfusion compatibility physiology study of the giant panda in Sichuan, China

- Collection and laboratory testing of fresh feces of giant pandas in the wild
- Infra-red camera setting
- Conduct field trips under the leadership or companionship of teachers with rich field work experience
- High altitude (1500 - 2500m);
- Limited or no phone signal;

May to June
2025

Physical demand





© 袁軍法

CR

Yangtze Finless Porpoise

Yangtze Finless Porpoise population and habitat survey in Hubei, China

- Set up infrared cameras
- Artificially bred animal care works
- Participate in the on-board cetacean population survey

May to June
2025

Physical demand





Bryde's Whale & Chinese White Dolphin

Yangtze Finless Porpoise population and habitat survey in Guangxi, China

- Participate in the on-board cetacean population survey
- Video production
- Design and organize community education activity

Dec 24 to
Jan 25

Physical demand





Asian Dowitcher, Great Knot, Spotted Greenshank

**Conserving the coastal wetlands of Lianyungang, China –
the critically important stopover site for long-distance
migratory shorebirds**

- Participate in shorebirds ecological surveys
- Design and organize community education activities e.g. freshmen training

Dec 24 to
Jan 25

May to June
2025

Physical demand





Shrub Frogs, Agamid lizards, Wild orchids

Amphibian, Agamid lizard and Wild orchid surveying in Sri Lanka

- Recording vocalizations
- Analysis taking
- Capturing and collecting specimens
- Access to the field site requires approximately a 5-hour hike
- Sample preservation
- Morphometric measurements
- DNA extraction

Dec 24 to
Jan 25

Physical demand





Indian pangolin

Conservation of the Indian pangolin in Nepal

Assessing the status, climate resilience and scaling up conservation education and community-led monitoring programs

- Setting up and monitoring infrared camera traps
- Conducting community interview surveys
- Assisting with meetings and discussions

Dec 24 to
Jan 25

Physical demand





Orangutan

Developing local community nurseries to protect and restore threatened wildlife habitat In Indonesia

May to Jun
2025

Physical demand



- Learn about tropical peat-swamp forest emblematic species, ecology and conservation strategies implemented in the Sebangau National Park
- Participatory sessions, the different field survey techniques commonly used in primatology and transdisciplinary conservation strategies, while understanding how surveys, land management;
- Field surveys
- Education and community work



CR

Banggai Cardinalfish

Community-based conservation management of the Banggai Cardinalfish in Indonesia

- Building artificial structures for reef restoration
- Support captive breeding programme for Cardinalfish
- Assist in community development efforts to local coastal community
- Certificate in scuba diving is preferable

Dec 24 to
Jan 25

May to June
2025

Physical demand





VU

Dugong

Community-Driven Monitoring and Conservation of Palawan's Threatened Dugongs in the Philippines

- Seagrass assessment and monitoring
- Dugong land-based monitoring
- Boat based survey
- Community education on dugong conservation
- Basic knowledge on science, fieldwork and community living
- Swimming is preferable

May to June
2025

Physical demand





DNA extraction, amplification, and sequencing on a range of species

Overview of the sequencing technologies available at Monash University Malaysia Genomics Facility in Malaysia

- Access to different animals' samples e.g. sea cucumber & seahorse
- 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

May to June
2025

Physical demand





Before trip

- Discuss with overseas research team
- Submit Itinerary plan
- Submit budget plan for approval
- Submit proposal for community education programme

During trip

- Communicate with OPCFHK
- Take photos and videos for daily work record
- Submit social media content

After trip

- Financial report
- Individual report
- Community education programme
- Group sharing
- Group summary report
- Group Infographic
- Group documentary (video)

Details will be announced in orientation day after selection

EXPECTATIONS TO USSPERS

- ✓ Good **planning** and strong **problem solving** skills
- ✓ Communicate effectively and **responsive**
- ✓ Willing to **commit** and happy to share
- ✓ **Proactive, responsible**
- ✓ **Respectful and cooperative**
- ✓ **Passionate!!**

Are you one of them?



FALLACY OF USSP

Is USSP a 2-week programme ?

Am I able to get selected, as my cGPA is low ?

As I have a very strong background in conservation,
am I going to get selected ?

Should everything be subsidized?

Will I definitely see the target species?

They will teach us what we should know!





Application



Application period:

September 25 – October 13

APPLICATION

When filling in the application form:

- Express your **project preference**
- Resume (include all **information listed** in the application form)
- Academic transcript (unofficial transcript is acceptable)

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

Notes to applications:

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.

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Further enquiries:

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