

University Student Sponsorship Programme in Wildlife Conservation, 2019/20

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Join a research team
in Asia for 10 to 14 days



Support the conservation work
of some of the world's most
endangered animals



Meet and network with local
conservationists and fellow
university students



Design and execute local
conservation campaign

You can make a difference too!

- Science focused
- Science-community
- Community focused

PROJECTS OF THE YEAR



SEP
25
23:59

APPLICATION
DEADLINE

OCT
12&13

INTERVIEW
DAYS

OCT
18

RESULT
ANNOUNCEMENT

OCT
26

ORIENTATION

FIND MORE DETAILS IN
THE INFORMATION PACK



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTES

CityU • CUHK • EdUHK • HKAPA
HKBU • HKU • HKUST • LingU • OUHK

FOLLOW US FOR
MORE UPDATES

f USSP.OPCF

OPCFHongKong

www.opcf.org.hk



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

University Student Sponsorship Programme in Wildlife Conservation, 2019/20

INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Introduction of USSP
- Student trip sharings
- Project showcase (and requirements)

CUHK

SC L2, Science Centre
Language: Cantonese

Dugong



Cetaceans



Snow leopard



SEP 2

APPLICATION STARTS

SEP 10

18:30 - 20:00

HKUST

SCI/HOME (opposite to LT-B)
Language: Cantonese

Yangtze giant
softshell turtle



Sea turtle



SEP 16

12:00 - 13:00

HKU

3N-01, Kadoorie Biological
Sciences Building
Language: English

Snow leopard



Boulenger's
spiny frog



Bali starling



SEP 17

18:30 - 20:00

CityU

Room 6-211, Lau Ming Wai
Academic Building
Language: Cantonese

Bali starling



Vietnamese giant
land snail



Boulenger's
spiny frog



SEP 19

18:30 - 20:00

APPLICATION DEADLINE

SEP 25

23:59

FOLLOW US FOR
MORE UPDATES



USSP.OPCF



OPCFHongKong



www.opcf.org.hk



University Student Sponsorship Programme in Wildlife Conservation (USSP) is a programme organised by Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong (OPCFHK) that sponsors Hong Kong university students to participate in field conservation research and community work of neighbouring Asian countries.

Objectives

- To encourage our next generations to consider a career in conservation by experiencing a real-life conservation work in the field
- To nurture the next generation of young conservationists
- To create a network of young professionals and facilitated knowledge exchange
- To increase the understanding and concern of Hong Kong university students in local conservation-related issues, by inspiring the participants to spread conservation ideas and messages to the public through documentaries, photos, videos, talks, conservation projects and media interviews

Programme highlights

If you join the programme, you will

- Join a research team out of Hong Kong for 10 to 14 days and contribute to local conservation efforts
- Have the chance to support the conservation work of some of the world's most endangered animals
- Design and implement your own conservation campaign in Hong Kong to contribute to local conservation efforts – you can make a difference too!
- Meet and network with local conservationists and fellow university students
- Join local wildlife expenditures to learn more about Hong Kong wildlife and conservation issues

Programme schedule

Date	Time*	Activity
Oct 26, 2019 (Sat)	09:00 – 13:00	Orientation and briefing
To be scheduled (among the group of students assigned to similar projects, before the actual trip)	08:00 – 12:00	Small-group local field trips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus of the field trip would be related to your trip • Experience exchange with USSP alumni
Two weeks before the trip	Around 1.5 hour	Before trip briefing
Dec 2019 to Jan 2020 OR May to Jun 2020	10 to 14 days	10 – 14 days out-of-Hong Kong conservation field trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students need to plan and schedule their own trip among their group and the research team
Three weeks after the trip	Around 1.5 hour	Post-trip presentation + assignment + Proposal of Community Conservation Project submission
Within two months after trip	--	Execution of Conservation Project
Mar 7, 2020 (Sat)	TBC	Mid-term sharing and conservation project workshop
Sep 26, 2020 (Sat)	14:00 – 18:00	Graduation Ceremony

*The proposed time of the activities might have slight adjustments.

Bold text – important dates to mark down on your schedule

Programme requirements

- Plan, prepare and complete an out-of-Hong Kong field trip with your team members to conduct conservation research and community work for 10 to 14 days
- Participate in 80% of the programme activities and attend one field trip, unless absent with reasonable justification with prior approval by OPCFHK
- Design and complete a Conservation Project with your team members under our instructions, with the submission of a short proposal and report, suggested forms (but not limited to):
 - Workshop
 - Eco-tour
 - Exhibition
 - Investigative project
 - Sharing
 - University promotional booths
 - Video production
 - Infographic production

Students are highly encouraged to design an innovative and creative activity for their project.

- Complete all assignments, including:
 - Five Facebook bilingual live updates during the trip per team
 - Two bilingual infographic poster about your research animals and journey
 - Organised photos and videos taken during the trip
 - Bilingual group summary report
 - Individual reflection (max. 2 pages, Chinese or English)
 - Financial budget and report

The refund of the expenses for the field trip and conservation community project would only be processed if the performance is satisfactory.

Student teams with the best performance will receive prizes at the end of the programme!

Participating Institutes

- City University of Hong Kong (Department of Chemistry)
- Lingnan University (Science Unit and Student Services Centre)
- Hong Kong Baptist University (Department of Biology, Department of Geography)
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong (School of Life Sciences)
- The Education University of Hong Kong (Department of Science and Environmental Studies)
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (School of Science)
- The Open University of Hong Kong (School of Science & Technology)
- The University of Hong Kong (The Swire Institute of Marine Science)

For application details, you may consult OPCFHK or your school's department.

Please note that students from other departments may need to consult their department/OPCFHK for their eligibility.

Application method

Please put (1) your comprehensive **resume** AND (2) a copy of your **unofficial transcript** into **ONE WORD FILE** and return together with (3) your completed **application form** to the email listed in the application form no later than **23:59, September 25, 2019 (Sun)**. No late submission would be allowed. You are recommended to join our **Information Sessions** to learn more about the background of the programme and the details and criteria of each research projects available this year! There will also be students sharing about their trips in 2018/19 and talk to them directly to learn more about the programme and trips!

Sep 3 – 25, 2019	Application period
Sep 10, 2019 18:30 – 20:00 Sep 16, 2019 12:00 – 13:00 Sep 17, 2019 18:30 – 20:00 Sep 19, 2019 18:30 – 20:00	Information sessions CUHK @SC L2, Science Centre (Cantonese) HKUST @Sci/Home opposite to LT-B, Academic Concourse (Cantonese) HKU @3N-01, Kadoorie Biological Sciences Building (English) CityU @Room 6-211, Lau Ming Wai Academic Building (Cantonese)
Sep 25, 2019 23:59	Application deadline
Oct 12-13, 2019	Interview sessions*
Oct 18, 2019	Result announcement

*The interview is compulsory for all selected applicants.

The 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.

Time of the interview would be arranged by OPCFHK and it will last for about an hour. Representatives from participating universities would be invited to join the interview and grade the student performance together with OPCFHK. Selected applicants would be notified through email, so please check your provided email often to make sure you do not miss our announcement!

After the interview, applicants would be selected based on their demonstrated passion and vision for conservation, communication skill, problem-solving skill, maturity, proactiveness, and presentability. And the projects would be assigned to the selected students based on their preference and skillset.

Follow us for more information

Facebook: @[USSP.OPCF](#) (Please follow us for the latest news and announcement!)

YouTube Channel: <https://goo.gl/T6q4n2>

Website: <http://www.opcf.org.hk/en/community-education/university-student-sponsorship-programme>

If you have any enquiries, you may contact Ms. Nicole Kit through email at nicole.tk.kit@oceanpark.com.hk. You may also refer to our website and Facebook page for further information and past projects.

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

Project list of USSP1920

USSP Code	Supported Species	Project Name	Location	Trip period	Student tasks^	Physical demand	Environment	Student requirements
CWDxWHL	Chinese white dolphin and Bryde's whale	Drone survey of Chinese white dolphin	Guangxi, China	Dec 2019 to Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese white dolphin and Bryde's Whale boat-based population survey Learn about cetacean drone survey Other scientific researches School and community education work in Weizhou Island 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed working environment: strong sun, wind and cold in winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with no seasickness preferred
WHALE	Bryde's whale	Population biology of Bryde's whale in Weizhou Island, Guangxi	Guangxi, China	<i>Jan 5 to Jan 20, 2020</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bryde's whale boat-based population survey Photo and video taking Data processing 	★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed working environment: strong sun, wind and cold in winter 3-5 hours of boat survey per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is preferred Students with no seasickness preferred
DUG	Dugong	Community-driven monitoring and conservation of Palawan's threatened Dugongs	The Philippines	<i>May 23 to Jun 7, 2020</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat and seagrass assessment Drone survey Simultaneous dugong monitoring Boat-based survey Community education and immersion for the indigenous people and local fishers Video documentation 	★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic living conditions, no electricity in some islands, limited fresh water supply Hiking or walking to reach communities Transportation: boat rides, tricycle and other public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have good swimming ability Divers preferred Experience in drone flying is advantageous
SK&RAY	Sharks and rays (Scalloped hammerhead, Chilean devil ray, giant manta ray, spinetail devil ray, stripnose guitarfish, short fin devil ray)	Determining elasmobranch diversity and conducting age-growth analyses of threatened species to support sustainable fisheries management in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record elasmobranch at landing sites Data processing and analysis Laboratory work for age-growth study (Possible) Coral reef transect survey (Possible) Record reef fisheries at fishery landing sites 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated in a remote town, however basic amenities are available. Interns can stay at our field station, it is dormitory shared accommodation without air conditioning Cycling involved to get to the landing sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to bike preferred Comfortable with handling dead elasmobranch samples Diving license required for coral reef project (Advanced Open Water or above and preferably > 50 dives with good neutral buoyancy)
HSC	Chinese horseshoe crab	Taiwan juvenile horseshoe survey: survey of juvenile horseshoe crab populations and habitats in Kinmen, Penghu and Xiangshan, Taiwan	Taiwan	May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflat survey: horseshoe crab observation, measurements of environmental parameters, substrate and benthic sample collection (together with local volunteers) Laboratory work: benthic sample processing Micro-experiment design: design own projects, such as HSC tagging experiment, food or smell experiment Environmental education activity design and execution Citizen science surveys or environment activity: mudflat cleanup/marine debris art Visit local research institutes 	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey time needs to match that of tides 4-hours of work in intertidal area/mudflat Exposed working environment: strong sun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is preferred Ability to swim is preferred Must be a good team player Ability to cook is advantageous
CWDxBIRD	Chinese white dolphin and sea birds	Social strategy and habitat utilisation pattern of small populations of Chinese white dolphin	Xiamen, China	May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cetacean population survey and photo collection Collection of cetacean behaviour data Photo identification DISCOVERY photo library management and use of Fingo software (4-7 hours a day) Seabird: vegetation survey and drone survey for habitat virtual model building Infra-red triggered camera survey and breeding behaviour Nesting behaviour and vegetation survey Hatching behaviour and weather/climate 	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed working environment: strong sun and extremely hot in summer (40 - 50 C) Slippery rock surfaces Much walking required for field work Travel 100 - 120km on boat each day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is required Ability to swim is preferred Good physical fitness Students with no seasickness preferred
REEF	Coral reef with a focus on Banggai cardinalfish	Community-based conservation management of the Banggai cardinalfish in Indonesia	Indonesia	Dec 2019 to Jan 2020 or May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex-situ and in-situ coral restoration program Monitor coral growth and mortality Recording fish diversity at the reef restoration site Environment education with local schools (Possible in May/June) Monitoring of Banggai cardinalfish population, and habitat restoration 	★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basecamps are remote and located at the coast, could be assessed by vehicles Simple amenities, freshwater supply available Internet connection is unstable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to dive Minimum 40 hours diving log; divers with advanced level license is preferred
TURT	Freshwater turtles	Recovering India's most endangered turtles; Northern River terrapin (<i>Batagur baska</i>) in the Sundarbans	India	May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater Turtle Nest Protection Mark-recapture Exercises Community Outreach Program Radio-telemetry Husbandry and morphometrics Chelonian photography 	★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely hot environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is not necessary

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.

** Students are allowed to choose one additional project from the whole list that is not assigned to their universities.

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

Project list of USSP1920

USSP Code	Supported Species	Project Name	Location	Trip period	Student tasks^	Physical demand	Environment	Student requirements
GIBBON1	Skywalker hoolock gibbon	Community education and survey near the skywalker hoolock gibbon habitat	Yunnan, China	Dec 2019 to Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community questionnaire surveys - study the influence of belief changes on the concept of local wildlife conservation Image-documentation: Record the current life of Lisu people, produce output and cultural observation 	★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High altitude (1900 - 2400m) Live and dine at indigenous community (Lisu people)'s home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is not necessary Good perception in anthropology, sociology, and art
GIBBON2	Skywalker hoolock gibbon	Community education and survey near the skywalker hoolock gibbon habitat	Yunnan, China	Dec 2019 to Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skywalker hoolock gibbon population survey Microphone set-up and bioacoustic data analysis Habitat threat assessment - human interference Mapping of human threats 	★★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High altitude (1900 - 2400m) Survey in the forest each day for 8 hours Lunch in the wild No need to camp in the wild 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is required Experience working in South East Asia rainforest is preferred Good physical fitness Basic knowledge in Biology or GIS
PANDA	Giant panda	Blood transfusion compatibility physiology study of the giant panda	Sichuan, China	Dec 2019 to Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behaviour record for panda under wild training Field tracking of released pandas Bamboo quadrant survey (possible) Infra-red camera setting 	★★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High altitude (1500 - 2500m), extremely cold in winter Field work in dense forest, no need to camp in the wild Limited and unstable supply of electricity No phone signal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good physical fitness Able to hike Field experience is preferred
MARMOT	Mongolian marmot	Promoting model for community conservation of Mongolian marmot	Mongolia	May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in collecting field data of the target species Interview with local herders and visit herder households 	★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long hours of walking per day 	
MAMMAL	Mammals (Bornean orangutan, Bornean white-bearded gibbon, Malayan sun bear, clouded leopard, Sunda pangolin)	Developing local community nurseries to protect and restore threatened wildlife habitat in Indonesian Borneo	Indonesia	May 10 to 22, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orangutan nest surveys Camera trap surveys Forest cover mapping Butterfly and dragonfly ecological monitoring Peat swamp habitat restoration actions Seedling replanting Canal dam building or rebuilding the nursery in camp Community education and community development activities in village 	★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based in a research camp inside the jungle with basic amenities Physically demanding in a humid, equatorial environment Peat swamp forest is flooded in wet season (October to June) and the standing water can be waist deep and it is difficult to walk Hummocks, tree roots and hidden holes mean that walking can be extremely hard work. Falling over is something of a rite of passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good physical and mental fitness Field experience is not necessary Ability to cope with the environment in rainforest and peat swamp forest
TERREST	Terrestrial birds and mammals (Tarictic/Visayan hornbill, Waldens hornbill, Negros bleeding-heart dove, Visayan spotted deer, Visayan warty pig)	West Visayas species reintroduction project	The Philippines	Dec 2019 to Jan 2020 or May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrestrial bird and mammal population assessments: camera trap surveys, transect surveys, bird point count surveys Habitat assessments Community engagement, education and awareness-raising Animal husbandry and behaviour collection Radio-telemetry Habitat reforestation and invasive species removal Data analysis and prepare scientific manuscripts 	★★★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-8 hours hiking per day with steep hiking in mountain ranges Some areas are easy to access, high safety and basic amenities Overnight camping and a lack of basic amenities may be required The terrain is very mountainous and often includes steep hikes Minimal discomfort when engaging with communities within towns or conducting desktop research or writing Unlikely to be any extreme weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is advantageous
BIRD	Bali starling	School conservation education and community awareness in the breeding and conservation of indigenous bird species, including the critically endangered Bali Starling in Bali, Indonesia	Indonesia	Dec 2019 to Jan 2020 or May to Jun 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird monitoring and survey Habitat survey assessment Video editing 	★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed working environment: strong sun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field experience is not necessary Ability to drive motorcycles is advantageous

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.

** Students are allowed to choose one additional project from the whole list that is not assigned to their universities.

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

Please follow the USSP Facebook page (www.facebook.com/USSP.OPCF) to get the latest news and announcement on USSP application. You may also enquire through private messaging us.

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