



University Student Sponsorship Programme 2023-24 (USSP2324)

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 selina.hc.so@oceanpark.com.hk no later than **23:59 on October 31, 2023 (Tue)**. Make sure you have submitted all necessary documents listed in this application form.

You are recommended to attend the Information Sessions to learn more about the criteria and details of different projects available this year. You have to check your email frequently for important updates on the programme and details of the interview day.

(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*		Bird	DNA	Mammal	Marine Mammal I	Marine Mammal II	Panda	Reptile	Terrest
Preference	Jan 01 – Jan 30, 2024								
	May 10 – Jun 30, 2024								

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. **Information Session.** Come and learn more about the background of the programme and the requirements of different research projects! It will help you to write up your application form. You may find more details about the information session from this [link](#).
2. **Application deadline – 23:59 Oct 31, 2023 (Tue)**
3. **Interview – Nov 11 or 12, 2023 (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!
4. **Orientation day – Nov 26, 2023**, 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 USSP2324

USSP Code	Supported Species	Location	Trip period	Student tasks^	Physical demand	Environment	Student requirements
Bird	Spoon-billed sandpiper	Vietnam	10/5/2024-30/06/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support school & community program in creating education materials on a focus species for the local community/ school children; Support communication & fund raising in creating footage/pictures for better exposure with the public; Occasional visiting to community sites 	★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be very hot during the visiting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing and pictures and videos taking
DNA	No Specific Species	Malaysia	10/5/2024-30/06/2024	<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 	
Mammal	Orangutan	Sebangau (South Borneo Island), Indonesia	10/5/2024-30/06/2024	<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, bioindicators 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 our 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
Marine Mammal I	Yangtze Finless Porpoise	China	10/5/2024-30/06/2024	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing and pictures and videos taking is preferred
Marine Mammal II	Dugong	Philippines	10/5/2024-30/06/2024	<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
Panda	Giant Panda	China	10/5/2024-30/06/2024	<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
Reptile	Shrub Frogs, Agamid lizards, Wild orchids	Sri Lanka	01/01/2024-30/01/2024	<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	Negros Bleeding-Heart Dove, Visayan Spotted Deer, Visayan Warty Pig	West Visayan region, Philippines	1/1/2024-30/01/2024 & 10/5/2024-30/06/2024	<p>Terrestrial bird and mammal population assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera trap assessment, Habitat assessment, Biodiversity assessment Community engagement, education and awareness-raising Behaviour observations Radio-telemetry 	★★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrain can be difficult, require fit people for rigorous hiking Run on solar power and gravity fed water, without full time power Should be prepared to live communally in a rural setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No previous experience required

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.