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Postgraduate Diploma in Wildlife Conservation 2026-27

*The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) at the University of Oxford
invites applications for its outstanding Diploma*

Since 2009, in a joint endeavour between the [Department of Biology](#) and [Oxford Lifelong Learning, WildCRU](#) has taught a [Postgraduate Diploma in Wildlife Conservation](#). We aim to build applied conservation skills in promising conservationists from biodiversity-rich, but low- and middle-income countries, where specialist training may be difficult to access. Delivered in close association with [Panthera](#), the course is particularly well suited to applicants working in terrestrial vertebrate conservation, especially those focused on carnivores.

We have been able to sponsor most of our Global South students through full scholarships. To date, we have trained 137 conservationists and helped them advance their careers. Many alumni now work in government and NGOs, some lead conservation programmes, other have established their own conservation organisations. Many have pursued further academic training through MSc and PhD degrees.

Scholarships

Critically, most Global South students receive full scholarships. This year we will offer Arabian Leopard Fund Scholarships for Middle Eastern nationals and a Tang Scholarship for a Chinese national. In addition, through the generosity of the Notsew Orm Sands Foundation from 2026 we will offer five Burnett Scholarships for African students each year.

Who should apply

The Diploma is aimed at early-career conservationists and conservation scientists.

The course is taught in English, and applicants must have an adequate standard of spoken and written English. Applicants already enrolled in a doctorate, or seeking a career switch, are generally not prioritized.

You can learn more about the curriculum [on our website](#). Please refer to the University's [guidance on applying](#) and contact us if you have any questions about the Diploma.

The application process is highly competitive. To help applicants gauge their suitability before applying we strongly encourage potential candidates to email their CV for an initial assessment to wildcru.diploma@biology.ox.ac.uk.

Application deadline: Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 12 (noon), UK time.