



INSTITUTE OF

Innovation, Science and Sustainability

2024 NCP Nepal 35830

Life Science Internship Tour

Professor Wendy Wright

You are invited to submit an expression of interest to attend an exciting and culturally diverse Veterinary and Wildlife Science experience in Nepal.

What is the program?

Join our internship program and immerse yourself in the heart of Nepal's conservation efforts! Engage directly with iconic wildlife, including the one-horned rhinoceros, pangolin, Bengal tiger, leopards, and the elusive fishing cat, through community-based programs designed to protect these species and their habitats. Partner with the dedicated staff and volunteers of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) to gain hands-on experience in wildlife care, conservation, and the unique role of animal health practitioners in Nepal's pioneering community conservation model. You'll connect with a diverse range of community members—from farmers to forest officers and anti-poaching units—gaining a deep understanding of Nepal's culture, including the indigenous Tharu people, and the challenges and triumphs of conservation in a developing country. Embark on this transformative journey to contribute to vital conservation work while experiencing the rich cultural tapestry of Nepal.



What is involved?

During the initial three weeks, students will stay at the National Trust for Nature Conservation's Biodiversity Conservation Centre near Chitwan National Park, Nepal, delving into the region's rich biodiversity and learning about local culture and community-led conservation. They will explore the Community Forestry system, understanding its history and role in conservation. The following three weeks involve practical work with veterinary and animal care teams, focusing on the health of domestic and wild animals. This includes aiding in the treatment of wildlife, disease testing, and participating in rescue efforts, all within Nepal's community-based conservation model. The program, limited to six students annually due to logistical constraints, offers a comprehensive insight into conservation in a developing country.

Who is this for?

The internship program is available only for undergraduate Bachelor of Veterinary and Wildlife Science students who have completed a full first year and who have an available elective space in their course plan and a placement requirement for SCCOR3015

What are the benefits?

Understand and experience Nepalese culture and history with an emphasis on rural Nepal, natural resource management and the livelihood implications of natural resource management.

This immersive six-week internship at NTNC's Biodiversity Conservation Centre offers a deep dive into Nepal's community-based conservation, hands-on experience in wildlife and domestic animal care, and insights into Nepalese culture and the Community Forestry system.

Limited to 6 students, it promises a once-in-a-lifetime personal learning experience and unique veterinary exposure to native animals not found in Australia.

Everything you need to know about the Veterinary and Wildlife Science Internship in Nepal.

Who is eligible for funding?

The New Colombo Mobility Program is open to any Australian university undergraduate student who:

- a) is an Australian citizen.
- b) is not a (dual) citizen or permanent resident of Nepal.
- c) is enrolled in an Australian on-shore campus and undertaking a bachelor degree or bachelor honours degree at Federation University for the duration of the mobility project
- d) meets the age requirements (70% of participants aged between 18 and 28 years inclusive)
Please note that 30% of the participants may be over 28 years of age and it is very likely that Federation University will be exempt from this restriction. Students of all ages are welcome to apply.
- e) not be an employee of the branch of DFAT that administers the NCP
- f) does not during the course of their bachelor degree or bachelor honours degree:
 - i. receive more than one student grant for the same mobility project.
 - or
 - ii. receive more than two student grants during the course of their Bachelor Degree or Bachelor Honours Degree

Please note that, thanks to a revision from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), ALL successful Australian applicants will receive NCP funding .

All students who meet the criteria or wish to participate are invited to submit an [Expression of Interest \(Eoi\)](#) by Friday the 16th of August 2024.

Where are we going?

Students will stay at the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) field station in Sauhara, adjacent to Chitwan National Park and within Nepal's Terai (lowland) area. This accommodation would be twin share. A side trip to the Himalayas is also likely.

When are we going?

It is expected this six (6) week program will commence on Saturday, 11th of January 2025 to Sunday 23rd of February 2025 *

What is included?

Accommodation in Kathmandu, Chitwan and the Himalayas; most meals, local transport in Nepal & return airfare to and from Kathmandu (group travel to be arranged; all students to be on the same flight), travel insurance, all field excursions and use of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) field station.

What will it cost?

It is expected that the trip will cost approximately \$8,000 with students being subsidised \$5,000 by the Australian Government New Colombo Plan (NCP). Therefore expected cost to the student would be between \$3,000 and \$3,500



Australian Government



NEW COLOMBO PLAN

Connect to Australia's future - study in the region

Note: NOT included in this cost are passport and visa arrangements, some meals on days off, and personal expenses

Is there additional financial support?

All participating Australian students will also be able to access OS HELP up to the value of \$8,500 (a loan placed on their HECS bill)

More Information may be found on our [OS-HELP Loan Program link](#).

* Dates are indicative and may change due to flight availability



Key Experiences

Learn about Nepalese culture and rural society and community based wildlife conservation in Nepal.

Attend lectures by leading conservation specialists.

Visit jungle and mountain ecosystems.

Understand and experience the current (participatory) approaches to wildlife conservation.

Credit to your degree

The study tour is available only for undergraduate Bachelor of Veterinary and Wildlife Science students. Preferably who have completed at least a full first year and who have an available elective space in their course plan and a placement requirement for SCCOR3015.

Assistance with Costs

All participating Australian students will be able to access OS HELP (a loan placed on their HECS bill) up to \$9,500. Australian students will receive AUD \$5,000 each from the Australian Government New Colombo Plan that will be used to subsidize this trip.



This opportunity counts towards your



Federation
Advantage
Award

This opportunity counts towards the Bronze and Silver levels of your Federation Advantage Award

My Next Steps

Ready to go? Just follow these steps
and you're on your way*

Step 1

Check eligibility requirements: you need to have had successfully passed at least 8 Veterinary and wildlife science courses by the time of the excursion.
you also need to be enrolled in SCCOR3015 and/or Elective SCEXC2501 (optional)

Step 2

Check that you meet the New Colombo Plan (NCP) eligibility requirements. NB: if you do not meet NCP eligibility requirements, this does not exclude you from the trip, however government funding may not be available to you.

Step 3

Check essential requirements you need to complete in addition to your application.

- A valid passport
- You are willing to undertake appropriate vaccinations for entry & study in Nepal
- Travel availability in January / February, 2025.

Step 4

Complete your **Expression of Interest (EOI)** to undertake this tour –
(all applications are submitted on-line).

Expressions of interest due: Friday the 16th of August 2024

Interview for candidates: August 2024



Questions?

If you want some help getting started, or you need to know more information, we can help.

- **Contact the Student Mobility Office:**

Coordinator, Study Abroad and Student Mobility
Global Academic Services

Iain Johnson T +61 3 5327 6561

i.johnson@federation.edu.au or studyabroad@federation.edu.au

- **Or speak to the course coordinators:**

Project lead: Professor Wendy Wright - wendy.wright@federation.edu.au

* Please note that submitting an expression of interest does not guarantee a placement on this trip. Places are limited and a selection process will be undertaken to select candidates according to merit

2023 NCP Nepal 34785 - Life Science Internship

"I was opened up to a whole new world of knowledge, listening to a different expert in their field every single day not only expanded my knowledge on conservation issues and techniques throughout Nepal, but it also made me look at everything from a different perspective"

Rachel Burns (2023)

"I think this trip will always create better scientists or those who work in the field because it changes the way we think about conservation"

Siobhan Heenan (2023)

