

# **PRIMATE CONSERVATION**

MRes MSc PGDip PGCert





# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Our award-winning programme combines the expertise of anthropologists and biologists to examine primate conservation biology. It provides an international and multidisciplinary forum to help understand issues and promote effective action.

## *Our courses*

- MRes/PGCert Primatology and Conservation
- MSc/PGDip/PGCert Primate Conservation
- MSc/PGDip/PGCert Primate Conservation - Apes in the Anthropocene
- MSc/PGDip/PGCert Primate Conservation - Human-Primate Interface
- MSc/PGDip/PGCert Primate Conservation - Lemurs and Nocturnal Primates



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## *Key features of our courses*

- A pioneering programme providing interdisciplinary, professional training and accreditation to conservation scientists
- Work alongside leading academics who actively research primates and their conservation
- Access to permanent field sites in the tropics where students can conduct their research
- Excellent learning resources both at Brookes and through Oxford's Bodleian Library, the Radcliffe Science Library, and the Museum of Natural History
- Links with conservation organisations and NGOs, including Fauna and Flora International, TRAFFIC, and Conservation International
- Field trips to Apenheul Primate Park in the Netherlands, as well as to sanctuaries and zoos in the UK
- A dynamic community of research scholars undertaking internationally recognised and world leading research.

# WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?

## ***First-rate facilities***

Oxford is a city with a global reputation for education, innovation and research and attracts high-calibre researchers from all over the world.

Oxford Brookes is home to three world-leading research clusters: the Nocturnal Primate Research Group, Oxford Wildlife Trade Research Group and the Human Wildlife Interactions Research Cluster. You will have access to an equipment lending service for fieldwork, laboratory facilities to analyse biological samples, a collection of primate skeletal material, and a developing sound laboratory. In addition to the excellent IT facilities available to all students at the university, you can also take advantage of our specialist facilities including the Tess Lemmon Memorial Library of the Primate Society of Great Britain. You will be able to use Oxford University's Bodleian Library and the Museum of Natural History.



## ***Student-centred approach***

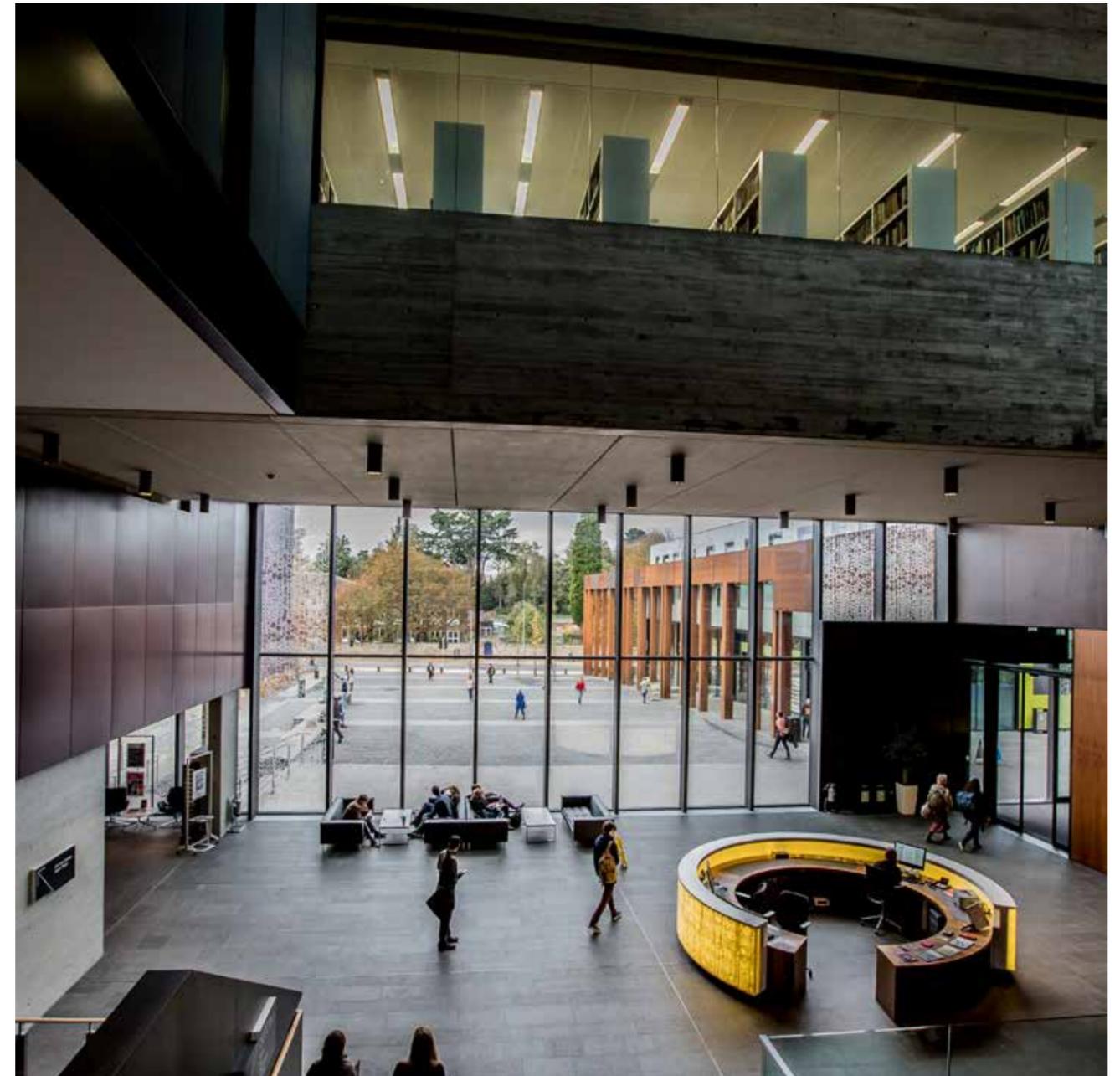
You will be offered guidance and support from your course leader, academic advisor and the postgraduate administrator. We also offer student support co-ordinators, who can give advice on your course, finance, accommodation or personal issues which may be affecting your study. We will regularly update you with information on visiting speakers, careers advice and course announcements. Leaders for each of the modules and other support staff within the faculty will also provide guidance and assistance. We encourage regular student evaluation of teaching, which helps to shape the future direction of the programme.

## ***Excellence in teaching and internationally recognised research***

The MSc in Primate Conservation was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2008 as recognition of the outstanding work of both staff and students on the course and of their enormous contribution to international research and development. Anthropology at Oxford Brookes University has a long-established reputation for high quality and innovative teaching and learning; you will be taught by research-active staff who are experts in their field.

## ***Academic development***

We run a seminar series featuring internationally-renowned speakers. There are also several field trips per semester (including attendance at the Primate Society of Great Britain meetings), and we produce the in-house newsletter *Canopy* with contributions from staff, students and speakers about their research.



## ***Primate Conservation at Brookes***

You will find yourself in a collaborative and supportive environment, working with international scholars in primate conservation. Whether working in the lab, with conservation groups (including zoos and NGOs), or in the field, you will gain first-hand experience to enact positive change. You will be able to collaborate with more than 50 global primate conservation organisations, several of which were founded by our alumni.

You are encouraged to build on your strengths and interests throughout the course, culminating in the production of a final research project (MSc/MRes students) that has a tangible outcome of use to the broader public and conservation community.

**Here at Brookes, you will be encouraged to produce work that has a lasting impact.**

# OUR COURSES EXPLAINED

## **MSc and MRes**

If you choose to study for an MSc or MRes, the course will run over a full year, including 2 semesters and the summer. As an MSc student, you will take 6 taught modules and a final research project. The MRes is made up of 3 taught modules that you will take in semester 1, with semester 2 and the summer set aside for completing the final research project.



## **Postgraduate diploma**

This course is ideal for those wishing to fill gaps in their primatology or conservation expertise without carrying out a final research project.

If you choose to study for a PGDip, the course will run over 2 semesters (9 months). This includes 6 taught modules.



## **Postgraduate certificate**

The PGCert is an ideal course for professional development.

If you choose to study for a PGCert, the course will run over 1 semester (4 months). This includes 3 taught modules.

# MRES PRIMATOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

The MRes in Primatology and Conservation is a research-intensive programme that combines the expertise of anthropologists, ecologists, and biologists. The course combines self-directed study with collaborative learning and a strong emphasis on conducting research. Regular contact with tutors and feedback from assessed coursework are important features of the course. The taught modules prepare you for producing an extended period of original research, including data collection, analysis and write-up.

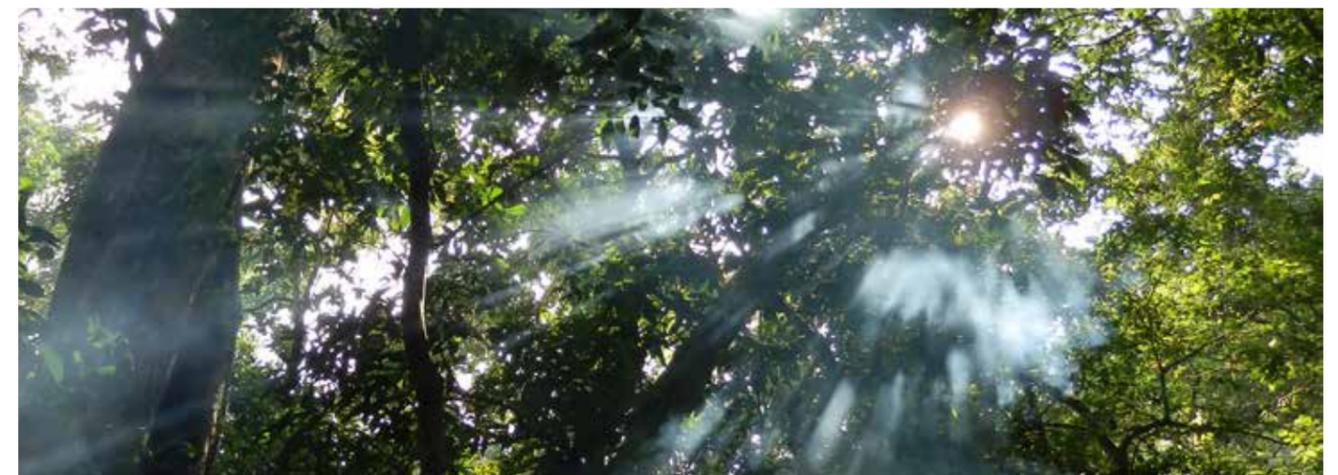
The course is made up of two components, with the first semester containing the taught elements of the course. The second semester and summer break will give you a chance to put this knowledge into practice, through an extended research project.

<i>Semester 1</i>	<i>Semester 2</i>	<i>Summer</i>
Primate Diversity and Conservation	Research Project	
Supervised Independent Study - Primatology and Conservation		
Option		

Option modules:

- People-Primate Interactions
- Advanced Study of Primate Adaptation and Evolution
- Advanced Study of People and Other Animals
- Conservation Education

- International Legislation, Humans and Wildlife
- If you take the two compulsory modules and an option module yet choose not to carry out a research project, you are able to graduate with a PGCert.



# MSC PRIMATE CONSERVATION

This award-winning programme combines the expertise of anthropologists, ecologists, and biologists to examine primate conservation biology in an interdisciplinary context. There is particular emphasis on the relationships between humans and wildlife in their natural habitats or in captivity, and you will complete a final project involving fieldwork, desk-based, or laboratory research.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
Primate Diversity and Conservation	Research Methods	Final Project
Option	Option	
Option	Option	

In semester 1, choose two options from:

- People-Primate Interactions
- Conservation Education
- Supervised Independent Study

In semester 2, choose two options from:

- Captive Management and Rehabilitation
- Genetics and Population Management
- Supervised Independent Study



# APES IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

The Apes in the Anthropocene pathway allows students with a particular interest in great apes and gibbons to focus on their chosen topic within conservation, ecology, and cognition. You may choose modules relating to the challenges and research opportunities revolving around Apes in the Anthropocene. The innovative and varied coursework provides students with direct training to work in conservation or ecology as a practitioner, advocate or academic.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
Primate Diversity and Conservation	Option	Final Project
People-Primate Interactions	Option	
Option	Option	

In semester 1, choose one option from:

- Conservation Education
- Supervised Independent Study
- Advanced Study of People and Other Animals
- Advanced Study of Cognitive Evolution
- Advanced Study of Primate Adaptation and Evolution
- International Legislation, Humans and Wildlife

In semester 2, choose three options from:

- Research Methods
- Captive Management and Rehabilitation
- Genetics and Population Management
- Advanced Study of Primate Societies
- Supervised Independent Study



## Did you know?

- We have conducted long-term research on the interaction between chimpanzees and humans in protected forest in Uganda and Guinea Bisseau
- We have been researching illegal ape trade for over 20 years
- We collaborate with Sabangou Outrop project - home to Bornean gibbons and orangutan
- GRASP founder, Ian Redmond, received an honorary doctorate from Oxford Brookes University in 2011.

# HUMAN-PRIMATE INTERFACE

Oxford Brookes University is a recognised leader in the study of the human-primate interface, and this pathway allows students to take advantage of this expertise. As part of the course you will explore topics such as illegal trade, bushmeat, crop raiding, or ethnoprimateology. This course gives students direct training to work in conservation or ecology as a practitioner, advocate, or academic.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
Primate Diversity and Conservation	Option	Final Project
International Legislation, Humans and Wildlife	Option	
Option	Option	

In semester 1, choose one option from:

- People-Primate Interactions
- Conservation Education
- Supervised Independent Study
- Advanced Study of People and Other Animals

In semester 2, choose three options from:

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Research Methods
- Captive Management and Rehabilitation
- Genetics and Population Management
- Advanced Study of Primate Societies
- Supervised Independent Study



## Did you know?

- We have led reintroduction projects in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Madagascar
- Teaching staff on this programme are world-leaders in illegal wildlife trade research and the human dimensions of conservation, with a strong history of collaboration with TRAFFIC
- Oxford Brookes University is home to the Oxford Wildlife Trade Research Group.

# LEMURS AND NOCTURNAL PRIMATES

Take advantage of the expertise that comes with being part of a department at the forefront of research into lemurs and nocturnal primates. This course allows students and those working with night monkeys, lemurs, galagos, lorises, and tarsiers to develop a focus on this evolutionarily important and highly threatened group of primates.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
Primate Diversity and Conservation	Research Methods	Final Project
Option	Option	
Option	Option	

In semester 1, choose two options from:

- People-Primate Interactions
- Conservation Education
- Supervised Independent Study
- Advanced Study of Cognitive Evolution
- Advanced Study of Primate Adaptation and Evolution

In semester 2, choose two options from:

- Captive Management and Rehabilitation
- Genetics and Population Management
- Advanced Study of Primate Societies
- Supervised Independent Study



## Did you know?

- Oxford Brookes University is home to the Nocturnal Primate Research Group, which has led research on galagos, lorises, and lemurs since 1993
- The Little Fireface Project, an international charity that seeks to conserve slow lorises, is run by course lead Professor Anna Nekaris. The project runs an active field project in Java, Indonesia.
- We have a leading role in lemur behavioural ecology research and in the designing of the Lemur Conservation Action Plan, working with active field stations in Southeastern Madagascar.



**Staff profile: tolerating habitat change**

Over the last 20 years, Dr Giuseppe Donati has conducted research on behaviour, ecology, and conservation of lemurs and New World monkeys. He initially focused his research on the unique evolutionary traits of the lemur radiation, and especially their capacity to be active both during the day and at night. Through this work he made a contribution to the understanding of the cost-benefit involved in the transition from the nocturnal to the diurnal lifestyle during the evolution of primates. Giuseppe's more recent research addresses a priority area in conservation research, i.e. investigating how primates tolerate habitat change. This work culminated in his involvement in the designing of the Lemur Conservation Action Plan and a leading role on lemur research and conservation in the region of Fort Dauphin (Southeastern Madagascar).



**93%** of our Anthropology research is 'internationally excellent' or 'world leading' REF 2014

**Staff profile: wildlife trade**

Professor Vincent Nijman transitioned from a career in evolutionary biology to anthropology and conservation where he focuses on primates and wildlife trade. He has acted as a consultant to international conservation NGOs such as WWF, FFI and TRAFFIC. He now advises governments on their international wildlife trade policies. His current research focuses on how best to regulate trade in primates, both domestically within countries and internationally, how to mitigate the anthropogenic impacts on imperilled primate populations, and how computer modelling can help real-world conservation. He is also interested in primate phylogenetics and DNA barcoding.



**Staff profile: Anna Nekaris is a world-renowned Professor in Primate Conservation, specialising in lorises, nocturnal mammals, and Asian primates**

Professor Anna Nekaris is a Professor in Anthropology and Primate Conservation. She studies the unique group of evolutionary distinct primates known as the Asian lorises. She is course lead for the highly-acclaimed MSc in Primate Conservation, Director of the Little Fireface Project and Convenor of the Nocturnal Primate Research Group.

Her studies cover all eleven species, including six she named or elevated from subspecies.

She completed her BA in Anthropology at the University of Missouri, Columbia USA in 1993, followed by a Certificat d'Universite de Primatologie from the Universite de Louis Pasteur Strasbourg France in 1994, and her PhD in Anthropology at Washington University, St Louis USA in 2000.

Anna's research on lorises ranges from behavioural ecology in zoos, rescue centres and in the wild, museum studies, genetics, acoustics, taxonomy, conservation education and now a novel study of chemical ecology and how this bizarre primate is one of the only mammals that produces venom. Despite reports of this extraordinary phenomenon 40 years ago, virtually nothing is known about how slow lorises use venom. She has supervised more than 60 postgraduate students.

Anna is also the Co-Editor-in-Chief of Folia Primatologica, the journal of the European Society of Primatology.

# RESEARCH GROUPS

Our vibrant research culture is driven by a thriving and collaborative community of academic staff and doctoral students. In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, 93% of research activity by Anthropologists at Oxford Brookes University was judged to be of international significance, originality and rigour, with 8% of this world leading.

Our strong performance in the REF, along with our expanding consultancy activities, has enabled us to attract high quality staff and students and helped to generate funding for research projects.

Oxford Brookes University research groups include:

## **Nocturnal Primate Research Group (NPRG)**

The NPRG specialises in mapping the diversity of the nocturnal primates of Africa, Asia, Madagascar and South America through multidisciplinary teamwork. This includes comparative studies of anatomy, physiology, behaviour, ecology and genetics. Field studies are helping to determine the origins and distribution of these neglected species, as well as indicating the conservation status of declining forests and woodlands. The NPRG has developed a widespread network of collaborative links with biologists, game wardens, forestry officers, wildlife societies, museums and zoos/sanctuaries.

## **Oxford Wildlife Trade Research Group (OWTRG)**

The OWTRG aims to quantify all aspects of the trade in wild animals through multidisciplinary teamwork including anthropology, social sciences, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, environmental economics, and legislation. Their main focus is on wildlife trade in tropical countries as this is

where most of the world's biodiversity resides and where the impacts of the wildlife trade are arguably the greatest. Recognising that the wildlife trade is a truly global enterprise they also focus on the role of consumer countries.

## **The Human Origins and Palaeo-Environments Research Cluster (HOPE)**

HOPE carries out ground-breaking interdisciplinary research, focused on evolutionary anthropology and environmental reconstruction and change.

## **Human Interactions with and Constructions of the Environment Research Group**

This research group develops and trains an interdisciplinary team of researchers to investigate priorities within conservation research. They use an interdisciplinary framework in anthropology, primatology, rural development studies, and conservation biology.



## **Student profile: from the MSc to setting up a field station in Laos**

“After I finished the MSc in Primate Conservation and my PhD here at Oxford Brookes University I established a field station in Laos, and set up a charity to study little-known and threatened species. My research focuses on primate species, particularly the red-shanked douc *Pygathrix nemaeus* and the white-cheeked gibbons *Nomascus siki*, which are globally threatened species whose ecology we know little about.

I first came to the UK to study for the MSc Primate Conservation. I grew up in the French Caribbean and studied Biology at the University of Montreal but it was after this, whilst travelling and volunteering in animal rescue centres in South America, that I decided to apply for the MSc Primate Conservation.

I chose the course as it combines my two main interests: wildlife conservation and primates. The modules are varied and provide a strong knowledge base for students and the final project enables students to apply their theoretical knowledge and gain hands-on experience.

The lecturers are truly inspiring; sharing their own experience in various world-wide wildlife conservation projects. My supervisors have been extremely supportive and encouraging of my work which always pushed me to do better. I hope we will collaborate on research projects in the future!”

Camille NZ Coudrat, MSc Primate Conservation and PhD graduate

# CAREERS AND GRADUATE DESTINATIONS

The MRes in Primatology and Conservation will prepare you for a research-oriented career in primatology, conservation biology, anthropology, or resource management. It provides excellent preparation should you wish to progress onto further education (MPhil and PhD), as well as for working in environments where critical thinking and analytical skills are highly valued.

You will develop the skills, knowledge and confidence that will enable you to contribute to arresting and reversing the destruction of our tropical forests, and the loss of the species that live in them.

## **Global networking**

You will be joining a supportive global network of former students working across all areas of conservation. Our graduates work in a range of organisations, from the BBC Natural History Unit through to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and in roles from keeper and education officer in zoos across the UK and North America to paid researcher at institutes of higher education. Some of our students have gone on to run their own conservation-related NGOs.

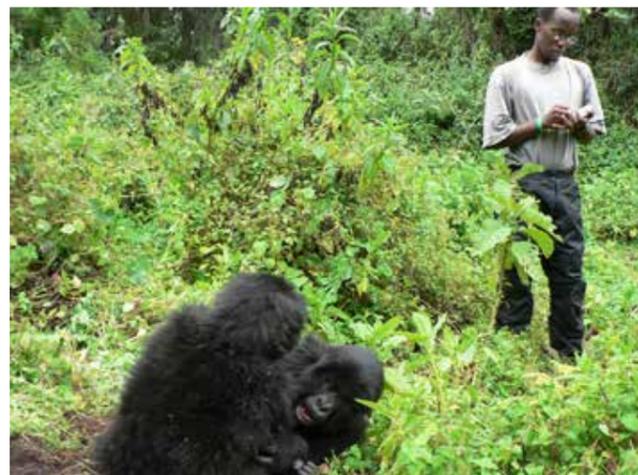
## **Further study**

Typically 10-20% of our MSc graduates continue their studies by enrolling on a PhD programme in the UK or abroad, with many opting to stay on at Oxford Brookes.

## **Graduate success**

Graduates from the Primate Conservation programmes have gone on to important roles at the forefront of conservation. Recent graduate successes include:

- Felix Ndagijimana, who became the first Rwandan director of the Karisoke Research Center in January 2012.
- Panut Hadisiswoyo, who was shortlisted for a Forest Heroes Award in recognition of his tireless dedication to protecting Sumatran orangutans and their forests.
- Terence Fuh Neba, who won the Steve Taylor Conservation Award in 2015. Terence is a gorilla conservationist working in the Central African Republic.
- Innocent Chitalu Mulenga is general manager of the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia, making him the first Zambian to oversee daily operations of the chimpanzee sanctuary since it was founded in 1983.
- Josia Razafindramanana, who was presented the Whitley Award for inspirational conservation leadership following her work to protect a rare lemur.



## **Student profile: saving Azuero howler and spider monkeys**

I have always loved nature and wanted to understand it. After I took my bachelor degree in Animal Biology at the University of Panama, I became interested in two critically endangered primates native to Panama. Urgent work is needed to save these two subspecies: the Azuero howler monkey and the Azuero spider monkey.

The MSc in Primate Conservation at Oxford Brookes University is one of the only postgraduate courses that teaches the conservation of non-human primates in the world. I was impressed by how the course prepared me to do a real and professional job in the field.

Even though I had been doing my own primate research, the course gave me the methodology to improve my research and taught me how to introduce a strong conservation and environmental education programme to my country as the first primatologist specialist in Panama.

The scholarship I received as a habitat student has made my dreams come true and helped not only me, but also the Panamanian monkeys.

Visit our website to see BBC video footage of Pedro's work in Panama:

[www.brookes.ac.uk/primates](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/primates)

**Pedro Mendez-Carvajal, MSc Primate Conservation graduate**

# LIVING IN OXFORD

Oxford is one of the world's most beautiful cities full of historic buildings that would take a lifetime to explore. With over 30,000 students, Oxford is not only a centre of education and learning but it is also a rich cultural hub with a wealth of cinemas, theatres and museums, far exceeding many other cities of its size.

With its culturally diverse population, Oxford offers a world of dining opportunities as well as bars, clubs and traditionally English pubs famous for their legendary customers including JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis. Performances of live music range from classical concerts at the intimate Holywell Music Room to jazz, reggae, rock and indie at venues such as the O2 Academy on Cowley Road.

Oxford has over 50 parks, meadows and nature reserves to discover as well as Britain's oldest botanic garden – ideal spots for a quiet walk or picnic with friends. Of course, your time in Oxford wouldn't be complete without spending a summer afternoon rowing or punting on the river.



# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING

## Entry requirements

You will normally be required to have, or be expecting, a good honours degree in anthropology, biology, ecology, psychology or an acceptable related discipline.

If you are not a graduate, or if you have graduated in an unrelated discipline, you will be considered for entry to the course if you can demonstrate in your application, and at an interview, that you are able to work at an advanced level in the discipline. You may also be asked to write a short essay and/or present evidence of original work in support of your application.

Accreditation of prior learning (e.g. through a conversion course or an advanced research training course) will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the course manager. Accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL) will similarly be considered. However, it must be advised that, because the taught aspect is a key component of the course, credit for prior learning will only be given in exceptional cases.

If your first language is not English an IELTS score of 6.5 or more is normally required. If you do not meet this language requirement, Oxford Brookes International offers a number of preparation courses designed to improve your use of English in an academic context. For more information see: [www.brookes.ac.uk/international](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/international)

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**10%** discount for Oxford Brookes alumni

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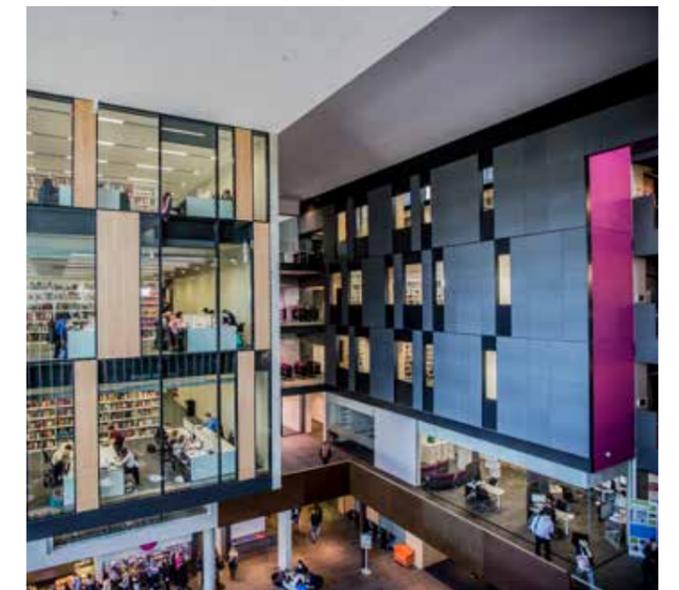
## How to apply

Please apply directly to Oxford Brookes.

## Funding

- The UK government offer postgraduate loans to all eligible UK/EU students
- Because of the urgent need for the study of conservation some private agencies offer scholarships with very particular eligibility criteria relating to gender, age, nationality and domicile. Most years the course provides a scholarship to an outstanding applicant from a habitat country, and in some years these scholarships are supplemented with additional ones from private donors. In addition scholarships are often available for excellent home students and non-habitat country overseas scholars.
- Visit our website for details of scholarships, bursaries and other funding sources.

[www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance)





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**Department of Social Sciences**

For more information  
about the Primate Conservation programme:

**[www.brookes.ac.uk/primates](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/primates)**

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