



Wildlife Conservation Network Scholarship Program

Overview of Program

The WCN Scholarship Program funds graduate education and applied training for community-based conservationists dedicated to working in their home countries. Our vision is that graduates of the Scholarship Program will become leaders in wildlife conservation. They will lead existing NGOs or start their own organizations, possibly even becoming WCN Partners. By working with local people as effective stewards of their environment, they will create a world in which wildlife and communities may co-exist and thrive.

Scholarship provides:

Tuition and living expenses for the duration of the program, over and above funding from other sources

(Scholarship awards range from \$5,000 USD to \$45,000 USD, with most awards in the \$10,000-\$20,000 range)

Mentoring by the nominator of each scholarship recipient

Eligibility:

All candidates must be:

- Nominated by a WCN Partner, WCN Guest Speaker, WCS or WWF senior conservationist (current staff), Whitley Award recipient, Rufford Foundation funding (2nd Booster Grant or Completion Grant) recipient, or Tusk-supported conservationist
- A national of a country in Central or South America, Eastern Europe, Asia, or Africa
- Committed to a lifelong career in wildlife conservation in his/her home country
- A college graduate
- Enrolled in or planning to enroll in a masters-level, doctorate, or applied training program

Selection Criteria:

Scholarships will be granted to candidates who:

- Demonstrate that the subject area, course work, skills, and/or degree conferred by their program will substantially empower them to make a significant contribution to field-based work in wildlife conservation
- Have current or previous experience as an employee or volunteer with a field-based wildlife conservation program
- Anticipate a career focusing on:
 - field-based conservation and applied research (rather than pure academic research)
 - protection of a threatened or endangered species, specifically terrestrial mammals or marine wildlife (rather than a pure landscape approach)
 - developing innovative strategies to promote better co-existence between humans and wildlife
- Demonstrate an understanding of the community-based model of wildlife conservation
- Demonstrate commitment to working directly with local communities in the field
- Are enthusiastic, hard-working and self-motivated with good skills in leadership and verbal and written communication
- Will most greatly benefit from the full range of opportunities the Scholarship Program provides
- Have high potential to become leaders in wildlife conservation