Go Abroad in Fisheries and Wildlife Science

Conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats is an international concern. As human impacts on ecosystems increase, more and more species are declining around the world. Scientists are learning about the interdependence of all natural resources and how human activities in one part of the world can have far reaching effects. Undergraduates majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Science (FWS) are strongly supported in pursuing and completing international experiences. We work closely with each student to explore the best experiential and financial “fit”, and to maximize the learning and credit value of the experience. There is an international experience that will work for every FWS student.

International experiences can help you…
learn more about global ecosystem interconnections and the species they support. Some of the potential benefits of going abroad include:

- Gain experience with different ecosystems, fish and wildlife communities and endangered species
- Understand human impacts and connectivity to global environmental issues
- Learn about international perspectives in biodiversity conservation
- Gain science-based professional skills in fish and wildlife monitoring, management and recovery
- Improve your language skills
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Globalize your world view, prepare for work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace, and increase sensitivity to environmental issues.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
pg. 1: Why go abroad
pg. 2: Types of international experiences
pg. 2: Finances
pg. 3: Credit towards major
pg. 3: Program selection
pg. 3: When to go abroad
pg. 4: Checklist for getting started
pg. 5: Abroad sites
What types of international experiences are available?

The three general international opportunities for FWS students at OSU include:

- **IE3 Global Internships**: FWS students can participate in internships around the world in such areas as wildlife conservation, aquaculture, endangered species recovery, habitat restoration and ecology, marine biology, fisheries management, environmental policy and many others. Students generally do international internships in their junior and senior years although a few have been sophomores. Most financial aid and scholarships can be used to pay for these internships. Students can earn up to 12 credits per term at OSU while doing an international internship.

- **Study abroad**: FWS majors can study abroad in an intensive field-based program or at a variety of international English speaking schools where they can focus on their baccalaureate core and FWS major requirements and interests. Some examples include New Zealand, Canada, Australia and Wales. Students can also elect to study abroad for intensive terms to work on a foreign language. Students who achieve a high enough proficiency in another language can choose to study FWS in several other languages around the world.

- **International Degree**: Students planning to study a foreign language while in FWS may want to consider the prestigious OSU International Degree. The International Degree (ID) is a unique undergraduate major obtainable only as a second degree. In addition to the FWS major requirements, the ID candidate must: (1) take an additional 32 credits; (2) demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equal to the completion of the fourth year; (3) spend a minimum of one ten-week term abroad on an approved program (international internships, study abroad, or independent research projects can count for this), and (4) complete a senior thesis. The ID affords a student the opportunity to develop a global perspective within the context of their FWS major by completing a research project, and International Degree students can also get special funding for their research abroad. In recent years, FWS students working on an International Degree studied wolf recovery in the French Alps and bird use of isolated wetlands in Oaxaca, Mexico. For Information, contact the International Degree Head Advisor at InternationalDegree@oregonstate.edu.

Can I afford an international experience?

Yes! If going abroad is a priority, there is generally a way to make it affordable. Early planning for international experiences helps students make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps them prepare their finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. There is a great deal of variation in costs between programs, and students should carefully consider all of their options before making a decision. Students can apply financial aid and scholarships to approved international programs and, in some cases, financial aid eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses.

When comparing the cost of programs abroad, be sure to look at the estimated costs of attending OSU for living and tuition. These annual costs can be comparable or not much more when you go abroad, and the difference can be made up with scholarships or financial aid. The latest estimates for attending OSU can be found at http://oregonstate.edu/admin/finaid/COA.html.

Students who choose to go abroad may also be eligible for additional scholarships:

- Students who participate in international programs approved by OSU can apply for scholarships through the Office of International Education and Outreach ($500-$1,000). Students who meet certain criteria such as studying specific languages or being from a small town in Oregon can apply for additional scholarships through the Office of International Education and Outreach.

- Students who participate in international programs approved by FWS can apply for scholarships through the FWS Department and can work with the FWS Internship Coordinator to explore other scholarship options.

- All FWS students can apply to the OSU Research Office for URISC (Undergraduate Research, Innovation, Scholarship, & Creativity) grants to support their undergraduate research abroad ($1,000 for 1 term; $1,800 for 2 terms; and $2,300 for the full academic year). See the URISC Website http://oregonstate.edu/research/incentive/urisc.htm for details.

- International Degree students in FWS can seek additional funding through the Office of International Education and Outreach ($1,000-$2,000) for their experience abroad. More information about these scholarships can be found at http://oregonstate.edu/international/internationaldegree/scholarships.html.

- All FWS students can apply for numerous national awards that offer bigger scholarships ($3,000-$20,000). These scholarships are competitive and often have early deadlines so planning ahead is essential. Contact the Office of International Degree and Education Abroad for more information.

“Being in a foreign country, without lifelines, helped me define myself and gave me the confidence to approach new situations, even back at home. I had to depend on myself to get through everyday life in an exotic environment, and I liked it!”

Noah Strycker, Ecuador and Australia
How will going abroad count toward my major? Will it take me longer to graduate if I go abroad?

The FWS curriculum is extremely flexible. Students in FWS can easily spend a quarter or more abroad and finish their undergraduate degree on schedule. Some students in FWS have even done a quarter or more of study abroad and an international internship and graduated on schedule.

Students must complete 180 credits and all of their degree requirements to graduate from OSU. The Baccalaureate Core can generally be completed in 33 credits, the FWS Core in 96-106 credits and the FWS Specialization in at least 42 credits. Students can apply all of the study abroad or internship credits they earn towards their FWS degree.

International Experiences can count toward graduation in the following ways:

- Students who do an International Internship can meet their Intensive Internship requirements (FW 410 for 3-6 credits) and in many cases, may also be able to complete their Group Problem Solving Sequence requirements (FW 441, 442, 443 – 6 credits total).
- Students who study abroad can take courses that will count for one or more parts of their degree program including the FWS core, FWS Specialization, and Baccalaureate Core.

When should I do an international experience?

- Students who wish to study abroad may go their sophomore year or later. Students who plan to do an international internship may go abroad in their sophomore year but most go in their junior or senior year. Students doing an IE3 Internship must go in their Junior or Senior year.
- Students who have sequence courses remaining in their FWS major should go abroad for a full year so they can take them abroad or complete them here during summer school.
- Students who plan to go abroad for one semester should go at a time when they will miss only one OSU quarter (often during our Summer and Fall Terms). By doing this, students end up with two quarters and one semester which keeps them on track.

The following are international experience options by year. Students should refer to the FWS curriculum checklist for coursework details.

### Year or Term Considerations for a Fisheries and Wildlife Science major:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year or Term</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh. Year</td>
<td>Students should be planning for a future study abroad or international internship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph. Year</td>
<td>Students can study abroad for the entire year, but not for a single term due to science series coursework such as chemistry and biology. It is best for students thinking of going abroad in their junior year to complete biology and ecology their sophomore year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph./Jr. Summer</td>
<td>Students can study abroad for the entire year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr. Year</td>
<td>Students can do an international experience for a single term or a year. Students planning to do an IE3 International Internship or study abroad for one term should plan to move their statistics to the terms they will remain at OSU and instead take single-term courses while they are gone. Students going abroad for the year can take statistics their senior year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr./Sr. Summer</td>
<td>Students can study abroad or do an IE3 International Internship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Year</td>
<td>Students can study abroad or do an IE3 International Internship. In general, students no longer have any series courses so they can easily go abroad for a single term or the year. It is generally not a good idea to go abroad the last term of senior year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Summer</td>
<td>Some students choose to go abroad during their senior summer. Students can still attend commencement in the Spring as long as they complete their coursework for graduation over the summer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do I select an education abroad program?

Consider your academic interests and professional goals. You will need to work with the FWS Head Advisor, your FWS faculty advisors, and the staff in the Office of International Education and Outreach to help you identify the program that is right for you. Some important considerations include:

- Start planning now. Begin to plan at least six months in advance of going abroad. Give yourself time to research programs and talk to advisers and students who have gone abroad to the site(s) you are interested in. It is never too early to start planning.
- Set goals. There are many good study abroad programs and international internships – the best one for you depends on what you want. If you plan to study abroad, one important consideration is whether you want to study a language or focus on science courses.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program. You should also talk to your academic advisor about the timing of when you take sequences or single-term courses related to progress in your major.
What are my first steps to prepare to go abroad?

**IE3 Global Internships first steps**

1. Research internships
   - Check the list of IE3 Global Internship positions at the back of this brochure.
   - Research the IE3 Global Internships website http://ie3global.ous.edu. All current position descriptions can be found on the website. Use the descriptions to find out more about the internship site: type and size of organization, position requirements, length and timing of internships, etc.
   - Come up with a list of several internship options that look good to you.

2. Meet with an advisor in the Office of International Degree and Education Abroad (IDEA) located on the 1st Floor of Heckart Lodge, 737-3006 to discuss questions, applications and other information about each program.

3. Talk to academic advisors in your department
   - Based on your program requirements and when it is available, make a plan of when you believe you should do the internship so that it does not interfere with your major requirements. Talk your plan over with your faculty advisor.
   - Make an appointment with Rebecca Goggans, Internship Coordinator, Nash 104A, 737-8166, Rebecca.goggans@oregonstate.edu.

4. Application
   - Take note of application deadlines. Deadlines for IE3 Global Internships are generally two terms prior to departure. Application deadlines can be found at: http://ie3global.ous.edu/appinfo/appinfohome.html
   - Applications typically include recommendation forms, essays, a current resume and college transcripts. Plan to start your application one month before it is due.
   - You will also need to apply for FW 410 Internship credit. Please confer with Rebecca Goggans for details on registration.

5. Final Course Selection
   - Research specific courses that would be offered at the foreign university during your time abroad. Find out what an average course load is for students at the foreign university.
   - Make a proposal to Nancy Allen of what courses you would like to take and how you believe they should count toward your degree by filling out the IE3 Academic Planning Form.
   - To do this, you will need to:
     - Provide Nancy with the course description for each course. For courses that are listed online, you should email Pat the website for each description.
     - Some courses may not fit into your schedule or may not be available so it is good to discuss a few back up courses as well.
     - Finalize your course plan before you leave and keep in contact with Nancy if you have any questions while abroad.

**Study abroad first steps**

1. Study abroad programs
   - Check the list of study abroad options in this document.
   - Research programs you are interested in at the International Education Website: http://oregonstate.edu/international/ and/or the Study Abroad Resource Center – 1st Floor Heckart Lodge. Attend a First Steps meeting on the 1st Floor of Heckart Lodge hall offered M-F at noon and 4pm. Use these resources to find out when the program is offered (summer only, every term and semester), the program setting (size of city, size of university, surrounding area and travel opportunities) and what courses are offered.

2. After you’ve attended a First Steps meeting schedule an appointment with an advisor in the Office of International Degree and Education Abroad (IDEA)
   - Schedule an appointment by calling 737-3006
   - The advisor can answer your questions regarding further site-specific information, financial aid and scholarships, and the application process.

3. Talk to Nancy Allen about course options while studying abroad
   - Use your FWS curriculum checklist to come up with the courses you have left in your degree and what you should take next. Look over the courses at the school you plan to attend for ideas of what you could take.
   - Think about coursework that will work if you go abroad for a year versus a term.
   - Make an appointment with Nancy Allen nancy.allen@oregonstate.edu, Nash 104F, 737-1941 to discuss what you have come up with.

4. Application
   - Take note of application deadlines. Each program has a specific application deadline. Deadlines are typically six months before the start of the program. Application checklists can be found at oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad/apply
   - Applications typically include recommendation forms, essays, college transcripts, and resume for IE3 internships. Plan to start your application one month before it is due.
   - IDEA online application can be completed at: studyabroad.oregonstate.edu/apply/

5. Final Course Selection
   - Research specific courses that would be offered at the foreign university during your time abroad. Find out what an average course load is for students at the foreign university.
   - Make a proposal to Nancy Allen of what courses you would like to take and how you believe they should count toward your degree by filling out the IDEA Academic Planning Form.
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     - Provide Nancy with the course description for each course. For courses that are listed online, you should email Pat the website for each description.
     - Some courses may not fit into your schedule or may not be available so it is good to discuss a few back up courses as well.
     - Finalize your course plan before you leave and keep in contact with Nancy if you have any questions while abroad.

“Studying abroad is like being a leaf in autumn: initially you are tousled by foreign and changing winds, continually confused and misunderstood. But then, as time has it, colors start to alter around you, and finally, from within you. You start to sway with your new culture and eventually are swept away by it.”

Adrienne Strubb, France
TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES:

There are many international internship and study abroad programs that work well for FWS majors (see below). The best one for each student depends on what they want from their international experience. If you plan to study abroad, one important consideration is whether you want to study a language or focus on science courses. If you are looking for a professional or hands-on experience, then an international internship or field-based program may better for you. The list below contains programs and schools which are good fits for FWS majors. If you want to concentrate on a language while abroad, then you should contact the Office of International Degree and Education Abroad for the programs that will allow you to focus on your chosen language.

IE3 GLOBAL INTERNSHIPS
(alphabetically by country)

These internships are sponsored by IE3 for all OSU students, however many FWS students have individually designed internships. Visit http://ie3global.ous.edu/

**Australia**

**Cape Tribulation Tropical Research Station:** This Research Station specializes in lowland tropical rainforest research and conservation. It houses bats and a public education center. Interns learn husbandry of captive bats and staff the education center, and may work with visiting scientists on research projects or a project of their own. **Language requirement:** English. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months.

**National Marine Science Center, Coffs Harbour** was conceived as part of Australia's Oceans Policy and is an exceptionally well equipped coastal institute located adjacent to the Solitary Islands Marine Park. Interns can work in the mariculture, environmental education or marine biodiversity habitat research. **Language requirement:** English. **Available:** All terms and summer, 6 months.

**Customized Environmental, Tourism and Parks Management Internships Hobart, Tasmania Australia** work with a variety of agencies in the state of Tasmania in the field of wildlife tracking and management, park use and management, user impact surveys, sustainable tourism programs, ranger and interpretive positions. **Language requirement:** English. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months minimum.

**China**

**Sea Turtle 911** interns participate in activities promoting the recovery of three critically endangered sea turtle species including care, rehabilitation and public outreach. **Language:** English. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3-6 months.

**Costa Rica**

**Organization for Tropical Studies - Las Cruces Biological Station:** The station manages 266 hectares for purposes of conservation, research and education. Interns participate in station research and educational activities. **Language requirement:** proficiency in Spanish equivalent to two years of university study. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months.

**Ecuador** (including the Galapagos Islands)

**Fundacion Jatun Sacha:** Interns work at one of ten biological reserves at the coast including Galapagos, the Amazon or the highlands. Activities include field research and environmental education, resource management, etc. **Language requirement:** minimum of two years college level Spanish. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months.

**Equilibrio Azul, Puerto Lopez:** Intern at a small non-profit focused on coastal and near coastal waters of the Machalilla National Park, especially around the fisheries and reefs near Puerto Lopez and Isla de la Plata. The main project areas are a) shark capture data gathering from local fisheries, b) sea turtle nesting areas (December-March), c) Mantaraya (Ray) studies, d) reef studies and protection, c) education and interaction with a range of stakeholders, including fishermen, park authorities, tourism operators, etc. All interns will spend most of their time in the field helping the organization in its different projects. **Language requirement:** Spanish proficiency equivalent to second year university; the more the better. **Available:** all terms, 10-11 weeks

**Gabon**

**Gabon Biodiversity Program, Smithsonian Institution:** The Smithsonian Institution's Gabon Biodiversity Program focuses its studies in the Gamba Complex, an area with high biodiversity, including elephants, gorillas and sea turtles, and the largest oil exploration and development in Gabon. The program seeks to increase knowledge, understanding and awareness of biodiversity in the Gamba landscape, minimize the impact of development on biodiversity, and increase local capacity to manage and develop natural resources. Interns will assist with a variety of projects, depending on the program's needs. These may include field research, conservation education, material development and other conservation initiatives. **Language:** Second year French, or equivalent **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months.

**India**

**Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE):** ATREE works to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable development. Interns participate in projects with fieldwork and office work including botany, conservation genetics, wildlife ecology, GIS, policy and management. **Language:** English. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months.

**Namibia**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund Research and Conservation Site:** Work to preserve the habitat and future of the cheetah in the Kalahari bush. Interns will participate in educational programs, animal care, and community outreach. **Language requirement:** English. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months.

**New Zealand**

**New Zealand Department of Conservation:** Students intern at one of two conservation projects in New Zealand. At Ngamanu, interns join in nature reserve education and outreach, and carry out fisheries and bird research. At Boundary Stream, interns work on research and wildlife population management. **Language:** English. **Available:** Fall and Winter terms, 3 months.
Panama

**The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI):** STRI conducts research in tropical forest ecology and biology; and tropical marine ecology and biology at seven different terrestrial and marine stations throughout Panama. **Language:** English, second year Spanish highly preferred. **Available:** All terms and summer, 3 months.

Scotland

**Scottish Seabird Centre:** Students intern in education department or business office of this remote wildlife viewing centre on the East Coast of Scotland. Opportunities for students interested in conservation education, eco-tourism management, marine birds and wildlife. There are also opportunities with students with IT skills in developing web-based environmental programs. **Language:** English. **Available:** Spring and Summer terms.

South Africa

**Table Mountain National Park Marine Team Cape Town** is one of 22 Parks in the South African National Parks (SANParks) the TMNP is surrounded entirely by a city and for this reason it is fragmented by urban development and privately owned land. On this conservation-oriented internship, interns will work with the Marine Team, who patrol the waters of the MPA on a regular basis. Some of the daily activities include checking fishing quotas, checking permits, chasing poachers and assisting with researchers. Interns will spend most of their time outdoors on the sea rather than indoors behind a desk. **Language requirement:** English. **Available:** Fall, Winter, Summer terms, 1-2 terms.

Thailand

**Elephant Nature Foundation, Chaing Mai:** Elephant Nature Foundation (ENF) is a non-profit organization working to increase awareness about the endangered Asian elephant, educate locals on the humane treatment of their elephants, and provide sanctuary for rescued elephants at their Elephant Nature Park. Interns will gain hands on project management experience helping to fulfill the varied challenges and opportunities that arise with the overarching goal of thoroughly understand the issues facing elephants. **Language:** English. **Available:** All terms, 3-6 months.

**STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES**

(by country)

Australia

**Deakin campuses in Burwood, Melbourne; Geelong; Warrnambool:** Students can pick to study in a metropolitan area or a smaller community. Students can study fisheries & wildlife or marine biology among other subjects. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs

**James Cook University, Townsville & Cairns**

James Cook has long been respected as a world leader in several biology-related fields, especially marine science and tropical environment studies. Located in Townsville near Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs

Macquarie University, Sydney

Study biology coursework, as well as health and behavioral sciences. Macquarie is located among rolling hills just twelve miles north of warm and sunny Sydney. Macquarie is a large, comprehensive university with 30,000 students. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **What:** Study biology coursework, as well as health and behavioral sciences. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs

University of Tasmania, Hobart

Study biology coursework as well as health and behavioral sciences. Hobart is located on a picturesque harbor and framed by Mount Wellington. The University of Tasmania is highly regarded for its natural environment and wilderness students, including those related to its unique plants and animals, applied science, and Antarctic studies. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs

University of Otago, Dunedin

Study biology at New Zealand’s oldest university. Dunedin, the second-largest city in the South Island, stretches gracefully across steep hills that sweep down to the head of the long inlet that forms Otago Harbor. It is a true university town with the university being the city’s main feature. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs

University of Wales, Bangor

Study biology and marine biology at the University of Wales which has 8000 students in 18 different academic departments. Bangor has a unique and stunning location being located between the Snowdonia Mountain range and the Irish Sea. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs

School for Field Studies

Semester and summer programs in Costa Rica, Turks and Caicos, Kenya, and Australia. Study tropical forest ecosystems, help protect endangered sea turtles, work with local people to protect parks, reduce human/wildlife conflicts, and create sustainable fisheries. **Language:** English, Contact: International Programs.

These are just a few of your options. If you prefer to do an intensive language program or work on baccalaureate core and elective credit for a term, there are many other OSU sponsored programs. Visit the OSU Study Abroad Website for a complete list of international opportunities [http://oregonstate.edu/international/study-abroad](http://oregonstate.edu/international/study-abroad).