

Joint Graduate Training Program between
Cornell University Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation (FZWC)
and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI)
Program Overview

Background

In 2010, the Cornell University Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute teamed together to offer a unique opportunity for graduate studies. Students in this program will receive a solid foundation of training in one aspect of basic biology (such as systems physiology, cellular physiology, or endocrinology) and will have the opportunity to use this knowledge to advance our understanding of the biology of a species of wildlife. This program leverages the complementary strengths of these two institutions and fills a major global need for better basic scientific training that could be used for wildlife conservation. Graduate students would complete the requirements for a PhD degree in the Graduate Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation at Cornell University.

Our Faculty

To explore what kinds of research are available, please make sure that you review the following websites.

- Graduate Field of Zoology & Wildlife Conservation Faculty
 - <http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/academics/fields-study/catalog/?fid=65#tabs-1>
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
 - <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/SCBI/>

Academic Program

All requirements of the Graduate Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation at the Cornell Graduate School must be met. In addition, as a student enrolled in the joint graduate training program your research and mentorship would include a Cornell Faculty member as your major advisor (Chair) and a scientific staff member from the SCBI to serve as your co-mentor. Utilizing expertise from both institutions, you would be working collaboratively and would be expected to study on site at both locations (Cornell in Ithaca, NY and SCBI in Front Royal, VA). During your 1st year you will have three lab rotations, including one at the SCBI. This SCBI rotation could occur in the summer prior to or after your first academic year. If you have previous experience at the SCBI or in a lab at Cornell, your Field Executive Committee can decide whether you may receive credit for completing one rotation.

Admissions Information

Any prospective student interested in this opportunity should apply to the Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation at the Graduate School of Cornell University. FZWC is a field of study within the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program (BBS) at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. Application guidelines for the BBS program can be found at <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/oge/admissions/guide/>.

- Please make sure that you note on your Personal Statement that you wish to be considered for the Joint Graduate Training Program between Cornell University Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.
- If both FZWC and SCBI deem your application as competitive, you will be asked to participate in an interview at Cornell. At this time you will meet a SCBI representative in person or via videoconference.

Funding

The Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation Graduate Program only admits students who can be funded for the duration of their program from assistantships or fellowships (contingent upon satisfactory performance). An application to the FZWC is considered an application for funding.

Questions

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Carina Ayar, Graduate Education Coordinator, at 607-253-3276 or cja92@cornell.edu, or [Dr. Ned Place](#), Director of Graduate Studies, Field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation.