

APBI 496 WILDLIFE SOS INDIA REGISTRATION FORM



**University of British Columbia
Faculty of Land and Food Systems**

Practicum: APBI 496B (6 Credits)
Wildlife SOS India - Application Form

Date application received

Date student contacted

Course Objectives:

This practicum is designed for students to gain international experience working with wild animals rescued from illegal captivity, human exploitation and human wildlife conflict. Students will apply knowledge from previous coursework to gain practical skills in this placement, which will assist toward informing careers in wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary medicine, wildlife conservation, conservation project management, human wildlife conflict mitigation, animal behaviour and animal welfare.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply key principles and concepts of previous coursework to the rescue of wildlife and management of animals following rescue;
2. Understand the social systems where the practicum takes place, including its cultural, environmental and economic drivers behind wildlife exploitation;
3. Relate animal welfare practice to situations in animal care and human-animal interactions;
4. Recognize and discuss the complex ethical issues within the field;
5. Create an applied communications piece for use by Wildlife SOS; and,
6. Summarize and communicate experiential learning.

Course Format:

This is an experiential learning course where students will get hands-on experience with general animal husbandry and facility operations, animal health and welfare management, and learn from professionals and collaboration with other students. The 6 credit practicum is 4 weeks of experience plus a half-term progress report, 5,000 word final report (min 20 primary refs) and an applied communications piece such as a poster, brochure, video, webpage, manual etc. that can be used by Wildlife SOS.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Wildlife SOS, a non-profit conservation organization established in 1995 by founders Kartick Satyanarayan and Geeta Seshamani with a vision to make lasting change to protect and conserve India's biodiversity, wildlife wealth, natural heritage and forests by working in partnership with indigenous communities and Governments. The organization has today, evolved into the largest wildlife conservation organization in South Asia with nearly 50 conservation, research, livelihood, women empowerment and conflict mitigation projects across India aimed at protecting and conserving wildlife, habitat conservation, biodiversity research, developing alternative and sustainable livelihoods for poacher communities. Direct physical contact with sanctuary wild animals is very limited for personal safety reasons. The practicum site locations and guest accommodation are described below. Toilets are all western and shower facilities with hot water is available. Electricity supply can be erratic in summer months but solar and power backup systems (battery & generator) are there for emergency use.

Agra Bear Rescue Facility (ABRF), Agra, Uttar Pradesh (~3.5 hours drive from New Delhi)

The Agra Bear Rescue Facility is the largest Bear Rescue and Rehabilitation Facility in the world for sloth bears. It was established in 1999 by Wildlife SOS in collaboration with the State Forest Department and currently houses around 200 sloth bears in large forested enclosures with ponds. The habitat protection work of Wildlife SOS has

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turned this 160 acre refuge into a sanctuary for other species of wildlife as well. Striped hyenas, Hog deer, pangolin, hedgehogs, porcupine, spotted deer, monitor lizards, nilgai & black buck antelope, peacocks, francolin, pelicans and a myriad of native & migratory birds are a part of the ecological system here.

The sloth bears have access to large socialization enclosures where the behaviour and personality of each bear is closely monitored by the Wildlife SOS team of veterinary doctors, animal caretakers and biologists. Based on each bear's personality, he/she is matched to a compatible group and then moved to a larger free-range area. Wildlife SOS has full-time wildlife veterinary officers, wildlife biologists and a dedicated team of bear keepers to care for the rescued bears. The bear hospital is equipped with a laboratory in addition to essential equipment like digital x-ray, ultrasound, dental suite, operation theater and other equipment needed to meet any bear care need that may arise. A special cub weaning area of the bear sanctuary is dedicated to foster baby bears rescued from poachers as the cubs require a lot of careful attention during the early months.

Elephant Conservation & Care Centre (ECCC), Mathura, Uttar Pradesh (~3.5 hours from Delhi, 15 mins from ABRF)

The Elephant Conservation and Care Centre is focused on rescue and rehabilitation of elephants in distress. The long-term vision of this center is to bring an end to the poaching of elephant calves from the wild to fuel the captive elephant industry in India that depends on irresponsible tourism. To achieve this, Wildlife SOS has adopted multiple strategies to educate tourists and travel operators about responsible tourism, offer conservation educational tours at ECCC to sensitize and educate volunteers and assist law enforcement authorities to implement the law. Every elephant housed at the ECCC has a unique story and past of the situation they've had to be rescued from by Wildlife SOS. Here, several elephants that have been poached, exploited by unscrupulous people commercially for profit and abused are under rehabilitation and recuperation, living out their retirement years in peace and safety. No longer forced to bear heavy loads, or walk on hot pavement, these majestic creatures are finally able to spend their days happily, with frequent baths, a nutritious diet, and veterinary care of international standards.

The Elephant Conservation and Care Center currently houses 20 elephants. The center is full of natural vegetation with open fields around for their daily walks and several trees available to scratch themselves, thus making it closest to the natural habitat of the elephants. Free access to pools are provided to elephants for them to bath and play in the water, at will. A 5 min drive away is the new Elephant Hospital equipped with the latest in veterinary technology and provides additional enclosure facilities, access to the river and "Field of Dreams" was recently opened and will increase elephant capacity at this site.

Accommodation (Volunteer Housing Unit) - Capacity: 36 to 40 persons; other volunteers and groups often stay 4-7 days in shared housing facilities

- 15 mins drive from Agra Bear Rescue Facility; all students and volunteers will be picked up and dropped off from this location daily (Mon-Sat working days, Sun off)
- Located inside a gated community with 24 hour security, three guest houses with 13 separate bedrooms and one dormitory; staff on-site 24 hours
- WIFI enabled, water purifier system for drinking water, power backup, access to common lawns, dining halls, kitchens and roof top area, shared laundry facilities with one washing machine
- Each room has ceiling fan, air cooler, hot water shower, western toilet, electric points for charging devices. Rooms are shared - some have 2-3 person capacity, others sleep 4 persons in bunks, dormitory sleeps 5-6
- Two chefs who provide basic breakfast & hot cooked dinner, hot cooked lunch in the field at ECCC or ABRF
- As there are no local stores nearby, all medical, personal health, and specialty nutritional requirements must be packed for entire month stay

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Name:		UBC Student #:	
Email:		Degree Program:	
Phone:		Year status:	
Date of Birth:		Nationality:	
Passport #:		Passport expiry:	

Rank term preference (1, 2):			
	January 2020		February 2020

Health:			
Allergies:		Blood Type:	
Medical concerns:			
List current vaccinations (note rabies, Japanese Encephalitis, and some others will be required before travel):			
All food at Wildlife SOS is vegetarian or vegan	Check preference: Vegetarian Vegan Food sensitivities or allergies:		
Have you ever been to Asia before, if so which countries and for what purpose?			
Any concerns with need to lift up to 40lbs, long standing work, bending and repetitive motions – describe:			

Practicum work involved (note the work is very physical and will need to be in excellent health):

- general animal husbandry (food prep, feeding, cleaning) and facility operations (cleaning, maintenance);
- animal health and welfare management (enrichment, behaviour monitoring, supporting caretakers and vets);
- learning from professionals and collaboration with other practicum students and volunteers;
- interacting with the public and Wildlife SOS staff in various departments;
- development of research question, detailed research and writing report, plus applied communications project

10. Required documents

Applications will not be reviewed until all materials are on file. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required application materials have been received by the academic supervisor Dr. Sara Dubois (sara.dubois@ubc.ca).

- Transcript (can be unofficial)
- CV/résumé
- Three reference letters: one of which must be a UBC faculty member and second must be a professional reference; third can be another UBC representative (TA, mentor) or personal reference