Overview and application information

The Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) exists to foster effective collaborations for biodiversity conservation, with a particular focus on forging connections between academic research and practice in the field. The project *Fostering action-orientated research for conservation* brings academics from the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute together with leading conservation practitioners from CCI’s partners to supervise ‘knowledge-exchange’ doctoral studentships.

The academic research undertaken by the doctoral students will deliver intellectual insight to the conservation organisations, in a manner directly applicable to conservation practice or policy. In turn, the experiences and insight gained by the students through their engagement with biodiversity conservation organisations will inform their academic research and build their understanding of cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral activity within conservation, and ultimately inform conservation research more generally. In addition, the students will gain increased employability value from their engagement with biodiversity conservation organisations.

Funds are available to support one studentship. The current call is open to students who are starting their PhDs in the 2021/2022 academic year. £45,000 is available for the studentship, over a 3-year period, to cover the costs incurred by the conservation organisation associated with hosting the PhD student.

CCI is extremely grateful to the Evolution Education Trust for establishing the *Fostering action-orientated research for conservation* project.

Eligibility

Applications are invited from students, along with individuals from any CCI conservation organisation in collaboration with an academic from the University of Cambridge who is already supervising that PhD student in a relevant discipline. Member organisations of the Cambridge Conservation Forum (CCF) are eligible to apply provided they have agreement from the CCF Executive Committee. The focus of the student’s PhD should be such that there are clear and tangible elements that can be explored in depth with the conservation organisation partner, which results in the co-creation of new knowledge that ultimately benefits the delivery of conservation and/or conservation policy.

Application process and timeline

Applicants are required to complete the application form showing how the proposed collaboration between the University of Cambridge academic, the CCI conservation organisation and the student matches the requirements. The deadline for applications is midnight on Wednesday 1 September 2021. Applications should be sent to the CCI Administrator at cciadministrator@jbs.cam.ac.uk.

A Selection Panel will assess all eligible applications during September 2021. Note that this assessment will include an interview with the supervisor, organisational host and student for shortlisted applications. The successful applicants will be notified by the beginning of October 2021.
Grant agreements and payment schedule

Grant agreements for successful grantees will be made between the Cambridge Judge Business School and the participating conservation organisation. Payments of £15,000 will be made per academic year, with the first payment made on receipt of the signed contract. The final payment will be £10,000, with the additional £5,000 payment made only after submission of the final project report and completion of PHD thesis.

Reporting

Successful grantees will be required to submit annual reports to CCI on the progress of their collaboration, and a final report once work on the collaboration has concluded (as per the dates in the application process). Grantees will also be required to provide updates on their project in other ways (e.g. by video/blog) as requested by CCI.