

# UNEP-WCMC Chevening MPhil Scholarships

## Application Guidelines

### Aims and Structure

This scheme aims to help young professionals prepare for a leadership role in national and regional policy development and decision-making to resolve biodiversity-related challenges.

Over a one-year period, Scholars will undertake an MPhil in Conservation Leadership offered at the University of Cambridge in its partnership with the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, of which UNEP-WCMC is a member. The MPhil placement will be undertaken at UNEP-WCMC focusing on policy-related issues specific to biodiversity in one of the following areas:

- **Policy-relevant research on climate change and biodiversity issues**, including: the impacts of mitigation policy on biodiversity (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, biofuels); developing adaptation plans for biodiversity in developing countries; relationships between biodiversity and carbon storage.
- **Enhancing the World Database on Protected Areas**, including: review of information on particular countries and regions; analysis and assessment of particular protected area related issues; gap analysis; impacts on local peoples; and protected area management effectiveness.
- **Delivering indicators for assessing progress towards internationally agreed biodiversity targets**, including: helping to develop and test global and regional indicators; reviewing links between indicators and assessing their relevance to policy; and clarifying links between global indicators and national datasets.
- **Providing analysis and information services related to species listed on international agreements such as CITES and CMS**, including desk research and analysis of information for particular taxa and/or regions.
- **Research, synthesis, analysis and mapping of marine and coastal biodiversity issues** including: sustainable use of marine and coastal goods and services; responses to current and emerging issues such as climate change, assessment of the marine environment, high/deep-seas issues, and the 2012 MPA target.
- **Biodiversity informatics**, especially geospatial aspects, web mapping, service oriented architectures, distributed metadata catalogues, distributed modelling and data management tools, also development of standards compliant web mapping services and transactional web feature servers. A minimum of twelve months software development experience plus ESRI or Open Source GIS knowledge is required for this area of work.

Candidates may propose other areas of work based on their own areas of interest and experience provided that this is consistent with the Centre's aims and objectives, and that it would make a suitable placement topic. A review of the Centre's website ([www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)) will help to identify relevant areas.

## Eligibility

Applications will be considered from candidates from any country other than those in the European Union (except for the 2004 Accession States), North America and Canada. ***Priority will be given to candidates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.***

Successful candidates will be:

- Graduates fulfilling the academic requirements for entry to the University of Cambridge MPhil in Conservation Leadership
- Committed to return to their country and contribute to its development through leadership skills and knowledge acquired in the UK
- Clear about how their scholarship will benefit their country on their return
- Able to demonstrate the personal qualities needed to benefit from having a year's experience of international conservation leadership in Cambridge
- Able to demonstrate good English language skills (with an IELTS of 7 where applicable).

## Funding

Each UNEP-WCMC Chevening MPhil Scholarship is expected to cover a stipend, University and College fees, and one return economy-class airfare to the UK.

The UNEP-WCMC Chevening scheme receives generous support from the UK *Chevening Scholarships Programme* and *The Salters' Company*.

## Applications

Applications should be made to UNEP-WCMC using the Centre's standard application form. In addition, a separate application should be made to the Cambridge University Masters in Conservation Leadership.

## How to apply to UNEP-WCMC

Download an application form by clicking [here](#). Forms can also be obtained from:

The Chevening Administrator  
UNEP-WCMC  
219 Huntingdon Road  
Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom  
DD: +44 (0) 1223 814611  
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 277314  
Fax: + 44 (0) 1223 277136  
Email: [chevadmin@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:chevadmin@unep-wcmc.org)

Completed application forms should be returned to the UNEP-WCMC preferably using email together with:

- Your up-to-date CV, including publication list
- A covering letter explaining why you wish to spend a year at the Centre, including following the MPhil
- Letters from two referees (professional or academic) in support of your application
- Copies of your qualifications
- Your IELTS result (if applicable)

*Further information about the Centre can be found at [www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)*

## **How to apply for the MPhil in Conservation Leadership**

Applicants wishing to apply for the MPhil in Conservation Leadership need to make their application through the University's Board of Graduate Studies. Details of the application process can be found at:

<http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/graduate/mphil/conservation/>

## **Timetable for applicants**

Closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by UNEP-WCMC before the end of May 2010 for interview.

Scholarships begin in the first week of October.