



## Wildlife Biology Program

**Duration:** 2 weeks (set dates to be arranged. Can be organized to correspond with specific dates if there is a group of 6 or more students)

**Location:** ARCAS Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, Peten, Guatemala

**What is ARCAS?:** ARCAS is a Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Peten, North Guatemala, with over 40 species of tropical animals such as: scarlet macaws, Amazonian parrots, spider and howler monkeys, crocodiles, turtles, margays, jaguarundis, jaguars, puma, ocelots, toucans, raptors, kinkajous, coatis, tamanduas, and many more. The majority of these animals were confiscated from the illegal pet trade. The main goal of the organization is to rehabilitate and release as many of these animals as possible back into the wild where they belong.

**Entry Requirements:** University/College Biology students at any level

**Cost:** US\$1350 (trial)

**Maximum number of students:** 12

**Aimed at:**

- Students who are looking for some hands-on experience of what it is like to work in the frontline of conservation as a wildlife biologist in the tropical Central American rainforest.
- Students who are looking for future careers in captive wildlife care.
- Students who are in need of practical experience to put them ahead of the crowd in future career opportunities.
- Students who are unsure of where a career in biology can take them.



**Goal:**

This program will give students a broad idea of wildlife biology and conservation and the skills learned within the field of a wildlife rescue center set in the tropical rainforest. Students will also be part of assisting with several of the center's long-term studies of monitoring the biodiversity of the area. This program will help to foster a new generation of wildlife biologists to fight for conservation around the world.

**Course outline:** The two weeks will be divided into a series of lectures and hands-on practical sessions covering a broad range of aspects of wildlife biology.

**Lecture topics covered:**

- Wildlife Conservation in a Rescue Center
- Animal Behaviour/Ethology
- Environmental Enrichment
- Animal Husbandry and Baby Animal Care
- Animal Management and Handling
- One Health/Wildlife Conservation medicine



**Practical sessions:**

- Daily animal husbandry care in allocated enclosures
- Environmental Enrichment
- Behavioural study skills and short study (Psittacines and Primates)
- Animal handling and restraint
- Telemetry
- Camera traps
- Dawn migratory bird watching
- Nocturnal crocodile spotting

**What's included:**

Pick up and drop off from Flores (Mundo Maya) Airport. Students will stay onsite in shared accommodation at the Rescue Center located in the Guatemalan rainforest beside Lake Petenitza. All meals are prepared by our cook and held in our open plan dining area along with staff and volunteers. Included in the two weeks will be an overnight camp in a national park managed by ARCAS where students will assist with ongoing biological studies in the field. The first weekend will be spent on a day trip to the Mayan ruins of Tikal (transport, a guided tour, and lunch are included) and relaxing in the local tourist island town of Flores.

**Teaching the course:**

**Anna Bryant:** Wildlife Biologist and Biology Coordinator (BSc Zoology, PgDipSci Environmental Science, Diploma in Captive Animal Management)

-13 years as wildlife biologist at ARCAS Rescue Center

-7 years international zookeeping experience

-Carol Noon Award winner for vision, dedication, and excellence in animal care by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS).

**Dr Alejandro Morales:** Senior Veterinarian and Animal Health Coordinator  
(Masters One Health)

-18 years as subdirector and head veterinarian at ARCAS

-Adjunct professor at Purdue University

-Co-Lecturer of Online Course "Wildlife Conservation Medicine"

