

Program Summary

The path to a career in conservation is often obstructed by the scarcity of hands-on learning opportunities. Through our **Rising Wildlife Leaders - Internship Program**, WCN fosters internships that equip burgeoning conservationists with real-life experience, mentorship, and professional networks. They provide the applied learning and professional development that early-career conservationists need to secure employment, while simultaneously fueling vital conservation work.

To support early conservationists' growth journey, WCN provides up to \$5,000 to organizations that are **WCN Partners and Wildlife Fund Grantees** to host internships and to individuals who are **WCN Scholarship Program alumni** to participate in internships. Support can be used to cover costs such as transportation (to/from the internship), housing, food, supplies, and a stipend for the intern.

Qualifying Criteria

- Organizations that are WCN Partners and Wildlife Fund Grantees and individuals that are WCN Scholarship Program alumni.
- Eligible Internship Programs:
 - Between four weeks to six months in duration.
 - Complement the intern's formal education by accelerating the growth of their skills in the field of wildlife conservation.
 - Provide participants with training, hands-on experience, and other opportunities to enhance their capacity to make long-term contributions to conservation.
 - Provide adequate oversight and mentorship to participants.
- Eligible Participants:
 - In-country nationals or regional citizens where the host organization is located.
 - College or graduate-level students, recent college graduates, and recent alumni of WCN's Scholarship and Career Programs.
 - Relative newcomers to the project with no history of paid employment at the project, and little to no prior volunteer experience at the project.
- Host Organizations are responsible for developing the internship, identifying and securing an intern, and providing adequate staff oversight.
- Internship Participants are responsible for independently identifying and securing internship opportunities.

Financial and Reporting Requirements

At the conclusion of the internship, the intern and host organization will each submit a brief report and a final budget detailing how the funds were used.

Application Requirements

Applications are accepted **each year in January and July**. Online applications are shared with eligible host organizations and participants and will NOT be listed publicly. Applicants are notified of the decision within two weeks of the application deadline.

