

Smithsonian-Mason Global Conservation Studies Programs

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION & GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRAD
OPPORTUNITIES

Smithsonian-Mason Semester: A springboard to conservation or environmental science careers! This 16-credit program, housed in a Smithsonian research facility near Shenandoah National Park, in Front Royal, VA, offers students the opportunity to live and learn among prominent research scientists, educators, and endangered species.

Overview

Grounded in natural science, this interdisciplinary semester combines public policy, sociology, conflict resolution and global awareness. Students take five simultaneous courses: meet formally four hours per day, four days a week, in addition to lab sessions, evening lectures and field trips to locations throughout the Washington, DC area. Like a "study abroad" program, this is an academically intense experience, with students in residence at the Smithsonian. Through active learning, teamwork, field and lab work, use of information technology, public communication, and case studies, students will emerge from the "Conservation Semester" prepared for conservation-related professions and/or graduate study related to biodiversity and conservation.

Video: <http://mccs.gmu.edu/semester.html>



Training current and future generations in conservation studies.

William Tidwell: Smithsonian-Mason Semester Student



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The 3200 acre campus of the Smithsonian National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center (CRC) in Front Royal, Virginia is the hub for initiatives to protect species and habitats.

Jessie Cohen, Smithsonian's National Zoo

Admission Requirements

At least 60 credits; some college level coursework in the biological or environmental sciences; Smithsonian standard background check and finger-printing. [*Note: background check at no cost to the student.*]

Tuition and Fees

As the accrediting institution, Mason will assess tuition, room/board, and a program fee. See the payment schedule and policies published in the Mason Schedule of Classes. **New: Scholarships are available for out of state students enrolling Spring 2010.**

Apply now for Spring 2010!

Apply online: <http://mccs.gmu.edu>
Email: smithsem@gmu.edu

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COURSEWORK:

- Conservation Science I: Conservation Theory
- Conservation Science II: Applied Conservation
- Conservation in Practice
- Human Dimensions in Conservation
- Integrated Conservation Strategies

Note: Students are required to register and to participate as full-time residents in the full 16-credit program.

FIELD EXERCISES MAY INCLUDE:

- Captive breeding demonstrations
- Biodiversity monitoring and assessment
- Habitat assessment and GIS Tools
- Wildlife management
- Human-wildlife interactions

LAB EXERCISES MAY INCLUDE:

- Conservation Genetics
- Endocrinology
- Reproduction and Physiology
- Wildlife Toxicology
- Veterinary Science

VISIT US ONLINE:

<http://mccs.gmu.edu>

EMAIL:

smithsem@gmu.edu



The Scimitar-Horned Oryx is now extinct in the wild. Scientists are developing programs for its re-introduction in Africa.

Jessie Cohen, Smithsonian's National Zoo

What Our Students Say

"Following the Smithsonian-Mason Semester, I traveled to Texas to begin a series of internships. During the summer of 2008, I served as the Black Rhino Intern at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, where I was responsible for the daily care of five endangered black rhinos. In the fall, I spent three months at the International Exotic Animal Sanctuary, where I had the opportunity to work with eight feline species and two bear species. In January 2009, I returned to Fossil Rim to work with their wolves. There have been multiple times when someone has asked me if I ever heard of the Smithsonian-Mason Semester; I always smile and proudly tell them that I was able to participate in the inaugural semester." –Kristen Culp

How to Apply for Enrollment



The severely endangered Przewalski's Horse is a key species for Smithsonian conservation activity.

Jessie Cohen, Smithsonian's National Zoo

Apply online: <http://mccs.gmu.edu>.

Applicants not currently enrolled at Mason must submit an official transcript and apply to Mason Admissions as a non-degree seeking student:

<http://admissions.gmu.edu/>.

We can assist students with getting these credits transferred back to their home institutions.

Internships and Beyond

Smithsonian-Mason Semester graduates find internship opportunities with many agencies. Involvement with research projects prepares students for Masters and Doctoral programs that are available for students who wish to continue their studies.

Trainees getting experience with laboratory techniques.

Sarah Itoh, Smithsonian-Mason Semester Student

