

## **Charles Darwin and Galapagos Islands Fund**

**The Fund invites applications for grants to undertake research on the Galapagos Islands that will be of practical benefit to our understanding of the nature of these unique (and vulnerable) islands.**

### **Full Details**

The scheme has been established to promote research and collaborative educational projects between the University of Cambridge and the Galapagos Islands (through the Charles Darwin Foundation/Galapagos Conservation Trust). The scheme is named in honour of Charles Darwin, former student of Christ's College, Cambridge, in recognition of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

This new programme is intended to support visits to the University of Cambridge (with Christ's College acting as the host institution) by researchers, based in the Galapagos Islands, whose educational or research aims are being supported by the directorate of the Charles Darwin Foundation. These visits may also include attendance at the Student Conference on Conservation Science ([www.sccs-cam.org](http://www.sccs-cam.org)), or completion of the MPhil in Conservation Leadership ([www.geog.cam.ac.uk/graduate/mphil/conservation/](http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/graduate/mphil/conservation/)).

The scheme will also support visits by Cambridge researchers to the Galapagos Islands in order to undertake a programme of study in collaboration with staff of the Charles Darwin Foundation, at Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz (<http://www.darwinfoundation.org/>).

### **Principal aims**

- To stimulate research and foster an on-going exchange between the University of Cambridge and the Galapagos Islands.
- To undertake research on the Galapagos Islands that will be of practical benefit to our understanding of the nature of these unique (and vulnerable) islands.
- To allow Galapagueno students and researchers to gain materially (in an intellectual sense) from an opportunity to work in a research-intensive university environment in ways that will better equip them for scholarly work when they return to the Galapagos.

- To stimulate collaborative research projects, conferences, seminars or colloquia, between the University of Cambridge and the Charles Darwin Foundation, focused on the Galapagos Islands and closely related topics.
- To, where practicable, develop and foster in the long-term a group of scholars who have shared interests and experiences in the Galapagos Islands and their long-term stewardship.
- To be willing to support, in the form of offering seminars, reports or discussion meetings with supporters of the Galapagos Conservation Trust, the Charles Darwin Foundation and Christ's College, University of Cambridge in partial recognition of the support that the scheme will have provided.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants are eligible for support through the **Charles Darwin – Galapagos Islands Visiting Scholarship Scheme** if they are:

- Postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate students registered for a Masters degree or PhD at the University of Cambridge.
- Researchers at the University of Cambridge.
- Staff working permanently, or on contract, for the Charles Darwin Foundation or the Parque Nacional Galapagos.
- Ecuadorian citizens whose work is relevant to the work of the directorate of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

## **Requirements**

- Applicants are expected to make preliminary arrangements for collaboration with the Charles Darwin Foundation, including use of facilities, prior to submitting their application.
- Applicants will be responsible for their own travel, including visa arrangements.

N.B. Applicants will be encouraged to seek matching funding from other sources in order to facilitate their visit. In the first year of this scheme grants up to a maximum value of £1000 (one thousand pounds sterling) will be considered.

## **Applications**

Applications for funding through this scheme should be made directly to the Master's Assistant at Christ's College in electronic format (Email: [masters-assistant@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:masters-assistant@christs.cam.ac.uk))

Applications should include: a brief (2 page) CV, an outline of the intended purpose (2 page) and the names, addresses and email contacts for two referees.

## **Deadlines and review dates**

Applications are encouraged without reference to a deadline. It is intended that the Awards Committee will meet twice a year to evaluate submissions.. The Committee will respond to urgent requests for funding if the need is both relevant and time-constrained.

## **Contacts and additional information**

Informal inquiries (via email, or by telephone) are encouraged in the first instance to the master's assistant at [masters-assistant@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:masters-assistant@christs.cam.ac.uk) or telephone number 01223 334940.