

**ZSL** | LET'S WORK  
FOR WILDLIFE



**ZSL's 2016  
Mongolia  
Summer Field  
Course**



## Conservation in Mongolia

Conservation in Mongolia is at a crossroads. Since the break-up of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s much of Mongolia's biodiversity has experienced unprecedented declines. A diverse range of threats are responsible for the current loss of habitats and species. Mining operations, de-forestation, overgrazing, and illegal hunting for meat, medicine and furs are all having a major impact on the biodiversity of Mongolia, and without well-directed conservation efforts the situation will only get worse. Conservation in Mongolia is therefore of vital importance, and the Steppe Forward is at the fore-front of such conservation efforts.

Steppe Forward is a collaboration between the Zoological Society of London and the National University of Mongolia. Since 2003 we have developed and implemented a wide-range of conservation projects around Mongolia. At present these projects include wildlife camera-trapping, combatting and assessing

the extent of the illegal wildlife trade, making conservation assessments for the production of Regional Red Lists, publishing field guides to birds and mammals of Mongolia, and implementing conservation projects on species such as the long-eared jerboa and the wild Bactrian camel.

Education, awareness-raising and training is of real importance in Mongolian conservation. Steppe Forward has a strong record in this respect, in particular through organising and running student field-courses. We work towards the continuation of this by providing training that is available to both international and local students that we hope will go on to continue in the field of conservation and, who knows, they may well head back to the Steppe one day!





## Who is the course for?

The course is aimed at students wishing to gain valuable field training, and help prepare them for a career in ecology and conservation. Students will be trained in monitoring techniques including camera trapping, small mammal surveying, and bird mist netting. The course will provide an amazing opportunity for those who want to learn more about practical conservation techniques and Mongolian biodiversity and conservation issues alongside local researchers and students. We have run thirteen field courses, training over 290 students out on the Mongolian Steppe.

## What the course offers

**The aims of the courses are to:**

- Provide students with valuable field experience.
- Develop students' ability to ask questions and test hypotheses.
- Introduce students to the most novel, up-to-date conservation techniques, as well as classic field techniques.
- Enthuse the next generation of wildlife biologists to develop further in their studies.

Skills taught in the course include small mammal trapping, bird mist netting, and remote camera trapping. Lectures include experimental design, principles of conservation biology, and Mongolian ecology and conservation.



# The course experience

## The Mongolian experience

For the duration of the course, students will live and be taught in traditional felt tents (gers), and will have the opportunity to experience and learn about Mongolian culture, customs, and history.

## Where are the courses held?

In 2015 the course will be held in the unique Mongolian steppe grasslands, about 100km from the capital, Ulaanbaatar, in an area of incredible natural beauty.

## When is the course run?

Preliminary dates for the course are 1st – 14th August with 12 days in the field and a couple of days in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The course consists of lectures and discussion groups, and supplemented by practical field project work where students will learn valuable techniques for biodiversity monitoring.

## Who will teach the courses?

The courses will be taught by conservation practitioners and researchers from the Zoological Society of London and in country partners based at the National University of Mongolia. All course lecturers have a wealth of research and field experience from which the students will benefit.

## What does it cost?

The course fee is £1200. This includes all tuition, travel costs within Mongolia, accommodation and food in the field and a hostel stay in Ulaanbaatar.

Flights, insurance, visa and food in Ulaanbaatar are not included. For further information please contact Julien Godfrey at: [julien.godfrey@zsl.org](mailto:julien.godfrey@zsl.org)



# How to apply

To apply to join the summer field course in 2016 please provide the following:

- A transcript of university grades (does not need to be final transcript).
- One page or 500 words on how you feel you might benefit from the course. Give a little background to your choice of studies and interests
- Your CV

Please submit your application via email to [sfapplications@zsl.org](mailto:sfapplications@zsl.org).

Deadline for applications is the 15th May.

You will be notified when we receive your application



# About ZSL

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is a world leader in wildlife conservation, science and education. Our mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. Through our efforts, we guide and enable others all across the world. Protecting, educating, inspiring – working for wildlife. As a charity we have active conservation projects in over 50 countries together with our two Zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.



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Animals and their habitats face increasing threats across the world. Donate to ZSL to help build a future where animals are valued and their conservation assured. ZSL is a registered charity in England and Wales no: 208728