UFAW Animal Welfare Student Scholarships

UFAW established a student scholarship scheme in 1983 to enable students to pursue their interests in animal welfare and to conduct relevant research or other (e.g. educational) projects. Since the scheme began there have been over 300 scholars, many of whom have gone on to careers in research or animal welfare.

Who can apply?
Applications are welcome from undergraduates (or equivalent) who will usually be studying agricultural, biological, psychological, veterinary or zoological sciences. However, we would be pleased to receive applications from students from other disciplines who are interested in carrying out a project related to animal welfare. Students must be registered at either a university or college in the British Isles or an overseas institution at which there is a UFAW University Link person (see: http://www.ufaw.org.uk/ ). Applications from MSc students on appropriate courses will also be considered. Please consult our funding FAQ for more details – www.ufaw.org.uk/faq

How much is the award?
Successful applicants receive £170 per week subsistence and £30 p/w project expenses to a maximum of £1600. Projects may be carried out at any time and usually last between four and eight weeks. Projects may last for longer but funding will only be provided for up to eight weeks.

What is involved?
Projects must be relevant to improving the welfare of farm, laboratory, companion, zoo or wild animals whose welfare is compromised by humans. We do not fund projects where the sole aim is species conservation. Students are encouraged to design their own project proposals, but they should seek guidance from supervisors and heads of department to ensure that the proposal has a sound scientific methodology, that all necessary facilities are available, and that the work will be properly supervised. Alternatively, supervisors who find a suitable candidate can apply.

Applying for an award
Applications must include a reference from the supervisor and agreement for the project to take place from the Head of the Department which will take responsibility for the project. If a student is to conduct the project at an external establishment (eg zoo or research institute) they must seek prior permission in writing from the appropriate person (eg curator, director).

Applications should include details of:
- Aim
- Methods
- If animals are to be involved, the number and type of animals to be studied.
- Details of any necessary ethical approvals or licences required.
- Animal welfare benefits: how the work may lead to improvements in animals’ quality of life. NB Much as UFAW applauds research that advances species conservation and other important issues – this scholarship scheme is for work that addresses animal welfare.
- How any significant findings will be used and/or made available to others (eg publications/presentations)

Completed applications must reach UFAW by Friday 26th February 2016.

The applications will be assessed by a panel and all applicants will be notified of the outcome of this process. Successful students will receive full details and administrative notes at this stage.

The final report
On completion of their project, scholars are required to write up and submit an original full report of their work, including an abstract, by 1st November of the same year (unless otherwise agreed in advance with UFAW). Additionally, UFAW regularly holds a meeting for Student Scholars at which scholars are invited to present their work. The meeting is usually held in December.

Examples of past Scholarship projects
- Impacts of capture and handling on the welfare of wild birds
- Anaesthetic aversion in zebrafish
- The effects of cage size on aggression and welfare in male mice
- Developing methods to assess positive emotions in cattle
What is UFAW?

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), the International Animal Welfare Science Society, is an independent, scientific and educational animal welfare charity. The organisation works to promote high standards of welfare for farm, companion, laboratory, and captive wild animals, and for those with which we interact in the wild.

UFAW works to improve animal welfare in the UK and overseas by:

- Promoting and supporting developments in the science and technology that underpins advances in animal welfare
- Promoting education, particularly at the university and college level, in animal care and welfare.
- Providing information, organising meetings, and publishing books, videos, articles, technical reports and the quarterly scientific journal Animal Welfare
- Providing expert advice to government departments and other bodies and amending laws and guidelines
- Enlisting the energies of animal keepers, scientists, vets, lawyers and others who care about animals.

Joining UFAW

UFAW is an independent registered charity, entirely supported by donations, legacies and membership subscriptions. UFAW does not receive government or university funding.

The annual membership subscription is £30; there is a reduced fee of £10 for students. Corporate or group membership of UFAW is open to departments or libraries of universities and colleges, corporate specialist groups and commercial and industrial establishments worldwide. An application form is included within the Student Scholar application pack.