

All participants are expected to read this Participation Contract in its entirety. Questions should be sent to study.abroad@wku.edu.

PROGRAM LEADERS

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COURSES

BIO 485 Field Biology African Wildlife Management (3 credits)

Prerequisites: BIO 224 or ANSC 140 or equivalent and prior approval of instructor

ACCOMMODATIONS

Tentative housing: Tented camp lodges in the lowveld of Limpopo Province. Sites subject to change due to the nature of the wildlife business.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In South Africa, wildlife management is privatized. Wildlife are frequently bought and sold, requiring intensive hands-on management. There is no place in the U.S. or in most African countries where students can experience and learn techniques of wildlife capture at the rate and intensity of the experience in South Africa. Additionally, South Africa has good transportation, communication and medical infrastructure, and most educated people speak English. This is the single best course a student can take to prepare them for veterinary professional schools or zoo work with wild, exotic animals.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This is a skills-based course for students in relevant careers, including veterinary medicine, ecology and wildlife biology. The goals are to learn and apply:

- basic field safety when working with wildlife
- principles and practices of wildlife capture
- principles and practices of wildlife immobilization
- principles and practices of wildlife handling
- principles and practices of temporary housing of wildlife
- principles and practices of wildlife translocation
- theory and practice of wildlife conservation in South Africa and the US

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: Hoedspruit & Johannesburg, South Africa

ACADEMIC TERM & PROGRAM DATES: May 24 – June 7, 2023

ITINERARY (subject to change) for full itinerary contact Dr. Michael Stokes (michael.stokes@wku.edu):

Students are responsible for their own flight reservations. They must arrive in Johannesburg, RSA, no later than May 25th. Ground transport WILL depart May 26th with or without them.

May 24 Arrive Johannesburg, RSA on or before this date.

May 26 In-country air transport, Johannesburg to Hoedspruit in South Africa. And the reverse after the course.

May 26 – June 6 Site visits, construction of capture facilities, hands-on animal work, and visits with specialists on private ranches and in parks near Hoedspruit, RSA.

June 6 Students return to Johannesburg via in-country air transport. Since the air transportation may vary on arrival times in Johannesburg, students are advised to book their return flight on June 7th.

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

ELIGIBILITY

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement:** All participants on this program are strongly recommended to be up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination prior to departure. "Up-to-Date" means receiving all primary doses of a CDC, FDA, or WHO authorized vaccine that is accepted in your host location and all boosters recommended for you, when eligible, at least 14 days prior to program departure.
- Student must have no life-threatening allergies or conditions that would be problematic if prescriptions are unavailable.
- Student must complete the Global Learning & International Affairs online application process.
- Permission of program leader(s) is required. Program leaders will review applications prior to acceptance decision.
- Student must be in good academic standing.
- Student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- Current WKU students eligible to register for WKU courses may apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as [visiting students](#).
- Students must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure.
- Students must possess a passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date. Or valid ID for air travel within the United States (domestic programs)
- Students must be free of active disciplinary sanctions as verified by the Office of Student Conduct.
 - Students who become ineligible to attend the program after applying due to disciplinary sanctions will be subject to standard program cost penalty rates. Students are responsible for notifying the Office of Global Learning & International Affairs when they become aware of this ineligibility.
- Students must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Full payment is due prior to date of departure.

PROGRAM FEE

Estimated Program Fee: \$4,900-5,000 + student flight (estimated at \$1700-\$1849)

Included in Base Package

- Undergraduate tuition for 3 credit hours
- Lodging for duration of program
 - See exceptions below concerning medical quarantines
- Entrance fees for all required excursions
- Designated group meals
- Course-related in-country transportation
- For international programs: insurance that covers accidents, medical treatment, and trip interruption

Excluded from Base Package

- Students will be responsible for their own airfare to and from Johannesburg. The faculty leaders will coordinate with students about logistics details.
- [Travel Cancellation Insurance](#)- highly recommended
 - Most travel cancellation insurance policies require that insurance is purchased within a specific timeline after making a program deposit payment. See individual plan policies for more information.
- Medical costs not covered by WKU travel insurance and/or participant's personal insurance
 - Participants are responsible for additional costs related to COVID-19 or other illness, such as required COVID testing prior to, during, and after travel; costs related to mandatory quarantines while on-site that are in addition to the program cost, such as additional lodging, meals, and/or transportation costs caused by the quarantine or illness
- Items not explicitly listed as included
- Transportation between your departure airport and your home
- Independent travel expenses (voluntary travel not required for course completion)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access
- Tips for guides and drivers not included in program-related activity
- Meals, services, and beverages not mentioned as designated group meals
- Baggage fees and costs associated with flight / program logistical changes based on the student's preference (as possible)

Faculty-Led Program fees are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts.

GLIA does its best to include all anticipated costs and contingencies in this Participation Contract. On occasion, the terms of this contract may change due to significant changes in programming or pricing.

LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS

- **Travel ID Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program. **Please begin application process no later than 4 months prior to departure.** / Each participant must have a valid ID for air travel within the United States prior to program departure.

- **Physical Requirements** - Participants must be in reasonable physical condition with no severe allergies or physical or mental conditions that may require immediate access to medical intervention and should not be reliant on any medications that they cannot do without for the duration of the course should they lose such medications. Students must be able to walk distances of up to 2 km over rough, rocky terrain, and be able to run short distances (200m). Participants must be able to lift reasonable loads for their size and gender. They must be able to climb trees, if not, they must remain with the vehicle for certain activities. Weather is highly variable in sub-Saharan Africa. Most buildings will not have air conditioning, wheelchair access or elevators.
- **Pre-Departure Requirements** - Students will complete a series of 12, online lectures and four quizzes with grades of 80% or better. These may be repeated until minimum scores are met.
- **Flight Logistics**- Participants are responsible for securing their own flights to the Johannesburg, South Africa from the program location(s):
 - Flights should not be purchased until receiving permission from the office of Global Learning & International Affairs
 - **Arrival and departure parameters: Arriving on May 24th | Departing on June 7th**
 - It is highly recommended that participants purchase flight cancellation insurance, which could include Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) travel insurance.
 - Should the program be cancelled or the participant withdraw, the participant is responsible for contacting the airline(s) to cancel their flight and for any cancellation fees that may apply.

PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<p>Payment & Billing Schedule</p> <p>February 1, 2024 – Priority Application & Non-refundable Program Deposit (\$250) Payment* Deadline</p> <p>March 1, 2024 - Program Fee will be invoiced to student's TopNet account (minus \$250 non-refundable deposit*). Balance must be paid by payment deadline. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>May 1, 2024 - Program balance payment deadline**.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit/debit card at time of application acceptance– NOT billed to student account. Deposit required to confirm space on program roster.</p> <p>**Students may provide an award notification for financial aid from WKU's Student Financial Assistance office that verifies financial aid amount and disbursement date if after payment deadline.</p>	<p>Withdrawal Penalty & Non-Payment Policy:</p> <p>Deposit Non-Refundable. Deposit payment serves as the financial commitment to participate on the program & is required to confirm spot on program. Once your deposit is paid, the following withdrawal policy goes into effect.</p> <p>After February 1: 25% of program cost remains billable After March 1: 50% of program cost remains billable After April 1: 75% of program cost remains billable After May 1: 100% of program cost remains billable/No refund</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, a transcript and registration hold will be placed on the student's account by the WKU Bursar's Office.</p> <p>Withdrawal Process: The student must inform Global Learning & International Affairs directly and in writing (email accepted, study.abroad@wku.edu) if he or she chooses to withdraw from a program. No other statements of withdrawal will be considered as notification of withdrawal, therefore, the student will still be considered a program participant until this written notification is received. Withdrawal penalties will be based on the notification date as listed in the Payment Terms and Conditions section of this Participation Contract (see above) and are in effect regardless of when program deposit is paid.</p>
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Program Cost Invoicing: Your program balance will be invoiced to your TopNet account for the term in which the program takes place. When making payments for your program balance, please let the WKU Cashier's Office know that your payment is for your faculty-led program balance. The total amount due in your semester bill may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. If you have any questions, please email study.abroad@wku.edu.

Financial Aid: Students are reminded and encouraged to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) even if you have not received financial aid in the past (must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen to complete FAFSA). You must have a FAFSA on file if you plan to use federal financial aid to help cover the cost of the program. If your financial aid will disburse after the program balance payment deadline, you may provide an award notification for financial aid from WKU's Student Financial Assistance office that verifies financial aid amount and disbursement date. Please reach out to Tiffany Denton (tiffany.denton@wku.edu) in the Student Financial Assistance office for questions on financial aid.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accommodations Resource Center (SARC) on the first floor of Downing Student Union. Contact SARC at 270.745.5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor, instructor, or Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.