

**ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON**

**ERASMUS DARWIN BARLOW EXPEDITION 2018**

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Please send your application (application form and two-page CV) by email to Davi.Teles@zsl.org and copied to Claudia.Gray@zsl.org. The closing date is **14th June 2019**.

**KEY DATES:**

**14th June 2019** – application forms, CVs and referee letters due (1700; BST)

**18th June 2019** – applicants short-listed for interview are notified

**20th and 21st June 2019** – interviews held (30 min skype session)

**24th June 2019 –** successful applicants notified of final decision

**22nd July – 11th August 2019** – proposed dates for EDBE expedition

**3rd September 2019** – EDBE awards ceremony

**1. Aim**

The expedition will contribute to the conservation and research goals of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

The aims of the expedition are:

1. **To provide experience in conservation and overseas fieldwork for two UK early career conservationists.** The expedition will be led by ZSL staff as a cross-Society initiative, with places for two early career conservationists designated through the application and interview process.
2. **To visit the location of an EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered) species, to obtain information on its location and/or ecology and contribute to the survival of the species through establishing long term collaboration with local experts.** The expedition will focus on EDGE species which are rarely seen, poorly understood and receiving little or no research or conservation attention. At the same time as collecting relevant ecological and social information on the context of the species, the expedition will also aim to obtain high quality images or footage of the target species. For more information on EDGE species see [www.edgeofexistence.org](http://www.edgeofexistence.org)
3. **To further the biodiversity conservation objectives of ZSL.** Wherever possible, the expedition will also focus on other species in the same location that are considered a priority for ZSL. For example, data collection on an EDGE species may be combined with rapid biodiversity surveys or other activities that obtain useful information for conservation efforts in the area. For more information on the conservation work done by ZSL see [www.zsl.org/Conservation](http://www.zsl.org/Conservation)

**2. Selection Criteria**

**a. Eligibility**

Applicants should be over 20 years of age and must be an Early Career Conservationist. This includes students at undergraduate, masters or PhD level working in a relevant field. It also includes any individual with less than 2 years’ experience as postdoctoral researcher in conservation science or any individual with less than 2 years’ experience working within a conservation organisation.

Preference will be given to candidates who are not in a position to otherwise gain field and expedition skills (e.g. from university-funded fieldwork or holiday).

Applicants should be resident in the UK **and/or** registered at a UK university or college. Full-time Institute of Zoology (IOZ) students and ZSL staff are **not** eligible to apply, please contact the EDGE team directly if you have expertise that is relevant to the expedition.

**b. Application criteria**

Successful applicants (award winners) will fulfil the following criteria:

* Commitment to biodiversity conservation
* Ability to carry out ecological or social research
* Relevant skills that will benefit the expedition (e.g. experience with particular ecological or social research methods, interest in and ability to identify to species level within a particular taxonomic group, experience with journalism)
* Experience travelling abroad
* Experience with logistics and planning of field work
* Ability and willingness to work in challenging or potentially inhospitable conditions
* UK national or resident in the UK

Preference will be given to candidates who have previous experience with photography/videography/other visual media and can communicate effectively in Spanish.

Applicants must be available to join the expedition during 22nd July – 11th August 2019. Applicants must indicate any time during this period that they are **NOT available** on their application form.

Applicants must also be available to work with the ZSL team to help plan the expedition in the month before departure date (this will be a flexible arrangement equivalent to no more than 2 hours of the award winners’ time per week).

During the awards evening (3rd September 2019), the accomplishments of the expedition are presented to the funders, employees of ZSL and the wider conservation community. All award winners must attend the awards evening and be prepared to give a presentation at this event (assistance will be provided, as needed, to prepare the presentation) and, ideally, screening a short movie made using material recorded during the expedition.

Award winners will be required to complete ZSL risk assessments before joining the expedition. ZSL accepts no legal, financial or moral liability for award winners to which it grants funds.

**3. ZSL Financial Support**

For the award winners, ZSL will cover the costs of travel to the expedition location and all expenses (e.g. food, accommodation, travel, equipment) during the expedition. Award winners will be expected to cover the cost of any equipment or possessions for personal use.

On successful completion of the expedition, report submission and attendance at the annual award ceremony, the award winnerswill receive a ZSL Fellowship (https://www.zsl.org/membership/zsl-fellowship). This fellowship will be valid for one year from date of the awards evening.

**4. Destination Country**

The proposed location for the EDBE 2019 expedition will be **Guatemala** with focus on the EDGE species: **Central America River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*)**. ZSL reserves the right to alter the objectives and destination of the expedition if required to ensure the successful completion of the expedition and safety of all participants. ZSL expects all award winners to behave professionally and in a culturally sensitive manner throughout the expedition.

**5. Application Process**

**a. Forms**

An application form may be downloaded from the Society’s website at *www.zsl.org*. All questions should be answered fully.

The application form must be typed or word processed and must follow the page layout. Applications should be emailed to Davi.Teles@zsl.org and copied to Claudia.Gray@zsl.org

**b. Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)**

Please attach your C.V. with your application form (no more than 2 pages).

**c. Referee Statements**

Two referee statements are required for each application. Referees should normally be the applicant’s current or previous employer, academic supervisor or manager in a professional capacity. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that referees return their statements to Davi.Teles@zsl.org and copied to Claudia.Gray@zsl.org arrive before the **14th June 2019.**

**d. Closing Dates**

Completed application forms and all relevant attachments must be returned by **17:00 BST on 14th June 2019.**

**e. Interviews**

Applicants with a strong application form will be shortlisted for interview (up to 60 minutes Skype session). Applicants will be **notified on 18th June 2019** and **interviews will take place on 20th or 21st June 2019**.

**f. Final notification**

Successful applicants will be informed of the **final decision on 24th June 2019**. If you do not hear from us by this date, unfortunately you have not been successful.

**g. Data Protection Act 1984**

Award winners are asked to indicate if they object to their details being held on a computer database and released to interested parties such as grant donors, planners and the media - for example, a press release is issued each year listing all approved research projects.

**6. Report follow-up**

**a. Reports**

All award winners must submit a report (approximately 1,500 words) to the Society within **two months** of their return to the UK.

The report should be emailed to to Davi.Teles@zsl.org and copied to Claudia.Gray@zsl.org. Additional outputs such as magazine articles or blog posts resulting from the award winners’ participation in the expedition should also be forwarded to the above contacts at ZSL.

**b. Presentations**

As part of the conditions, all award winners must be available to attend the annual **award ceremony in 3rd September 2019** to feedback to ZSL donors, Patrons and staff at the Zoological Society of London (Regent’s Park, London). You may be required to do a presentation at the event. Further details of the requirements will be given nearer the time.

**It is important you notify Claudia Gray and Davi Teles of any changes to personal details so that we can invite award winners to future relevant ZSL events.**

**7. Health and Safety**

The expedition may be physically challenging and carries with it risks that we cannot entirely eliminate. These include the risk of personal injury. Award winners will be required to sign ZSL risk assessments before joining the expedition.

**In order to ensure your safety during the expedition you must comply with the following rules:**

* You must act responsibly and sensibly at all times.
* You must follow any safety warnings or instructions displayed or given to you by a member of ZSL staff
* We are not qualified to express an opinion that you are fit to travel or to participate in the expedition. You must obtain professional or specialist advice from your doctor before participating.

In the absence of any negligence or other breach of duty by us, participation in the activities to be undertaken on the site visit is entirely at your risk.

*Updated May 2019*