

Funded opportunities at African Insight Academy, Eswatini, South Africa

STUDENT CALL 2025-26

The call is now open for a student studying on Social or Life and Environmental Sciences courses¹ to undertake a conservation experience opportunity with the African Insight Academy in South Africa.

The application deadline is **20 November 2025**

All details including the eligibility criteria are outlined below.

Summary

What	2-week experiential learning field trip				
Where	African Insight Academy, Ezemvelo Nature Reserve, Pongola Game Reserve and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, South Africa				
When	5-19 July 2026 ²				
Application	Complete the Turing Scheme funding application – see here for further details (including link to application). Interviews may be required as part of the selection process.				
Funding	<u>Turing Scheme at BU</u> Successful students will receive a cost-of-living grant from the Turing Scheme at BU to help offset some of the costs of undertaking the experience. Students from certain groups (WP students) are eligible for higher cost-of-living uplift and a travel grant. See more information on WP criteria here. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Total Grant for non-WP student</td><td>£238</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Grant for WP-student</td><td>Up to £1143*</td></tr> </table> <i>*Travel grants for WP students are paid up to a maximum of £905, based on actual costs of flights. See more information here.</i> 90% of the total grant is paid before the activity. The remaining 10% is paid after post-activity paperwork is submitted. <u>Placement and Professional Opportunities Fund</u> Where the activity is undertaken as part of a degree placement, UK Home students may be eligible for additional funding for specific expenses through the BU Placement and Professional Opportunities Fund. Visit https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/students/help-advice/financial-support/placement-professional-opportunities-fund for more information	Total Grant for non-WP student	£238	Total Grant for WP-student	Up to £1143*
Total Grant for non-WP student	£238				
Total Grant for WP-student	Up to £1143*				

¹ Applications from students on other programmes will be considered based on quality of application and available space on the activity.

² Dates are subject to change but it is anticipated that the activity will take place in early July.

Traineeship Details

This 14-day experiential learning field trip offers university students studying Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Conservation, Cultural Studies, Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Geography, and Social Sciences a unique, hands-on immersion into South Africa's dynamic conservation landscape. Delivered by the African Insight Academy, a leading eco-education provider with over two decades of experience, the programme integrates field-based learning, community engagement, and applied conservation practice across three iconic locations: Ezemvelo Nature Reserve (4 nights), Pongola Game Reserve (6 nights), and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. (3 nights).

Programme Overview

Through guided fieldwork, expert-led sessions, and reflective discussions, students explore the interconnection between ecosystems, wildlife, and human communities in one of the world's most biologically and culturally diverse regions. The experience is designed to complement academic studies with real-world understanding, critical thinking, and practical skills applicable to a range of environmental and social disciplines.

Learning Themes and Activities

Participants will:

- Understand the South African Conservation Success Story – trace the history, policies, and community-driven approaches that underpin South Africa's globally recognised conservation achievements.
- Learn Wildlife and Biodiversity Monitoring Techniques – gain hands-on experience in data collection, species identification, and ecological sampling.
- Undertake Ecology and Biodiversity Bushwalks & Game Drives – explore diverse ecosystems and apply field observation skills under expert guidance.
- Study Wildlife Behaviour and Survival Strategies – observe and interpret animal interactions, adaptations, and ecological roles.
- Examine Human–Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence – understand challenges and innovative solutions enabling communities and wildlife to thrive together.
- Promote Ethical Wildlife Tourism – evaluate the principles and practices of sustainable tourism within conservation areas.
- Learn Community Conservation Strategies – engage with local people to explore participatory conservation and community-based resource management.
- Participate in a Community Experience – immerse in rural life to understand cultural perspectives and the social dimensions of conservation.
- Explore Sustainable Wildlife Utilisation & The Biodiversity Economy – investigate how conservation supports livelihoods through ethical resource use and enterprise.
- Contribute to Reserve Species Databases – assist in updating biodiversity records used for ongoing management and research.
- Support Conservation Management Activities – take part in practical reserve operations that sustain habitat health and wildlife protection.

Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students will have:

- Developed a holistic understanding of conservation in practice.
- Strengthened field research, data collection, and analytical skills.
- Gained cross-cultural insight into community–conservation relationships.
- Contributed meaningfully to ongoing conservation projects.
- Enhanced employability through applied learning and international field experience

Costs, Travel and Accommodation

COST PER PERSON: £2,165.00³

Itinerary Summary and Meal Plan:

DAY	SERVICE PROVIDED Activity/ Transfer / Accommodation	Accom Type	Meal Plan		
			B/Fast	Lunch	Dinner
1	Ezemvelo	Safari Tent	0	0	Inc
2	Ezemvelo	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
3	Ezemvelo	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
4	Pongola	Safari Tent	Inc	O/A	Inc
5	Pongola	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
6	Pongola	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
7	Pongola	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
8	Pongola	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
9	Pongola	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
10	Pongola	Safari Tent	Inc	Inc	Inc
11	Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park	Rondavel	Inc	O/A	Inc
12	Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park	Rondavel	Inc	O/A	Inc
13	Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park	Rondavel	Inc	O/A	Inc
14	Depart	0	Inc	O/A	0

Key: Inc = Included 0 = Not Included O/A = Own Account

Includes:

- International flights (based on a maximum cost of £905 per ticket)
- All transport in South Africa
- All accommodation
- Catering as per meal plan above
- Entrance fee and levies
- Activities
- Emergency medical evacuation

Excludes:

- Travel insurance with medical/hospital cover (Mandatory)

Turing Scheme funds are provided as a contribution towards these costs.

Who is eligible?

We specifically invite applications from students studying study on social or life and environmental sciences, though applications from students on other programmes will be considered as well.

All successful students will receive a cost-of-living grant.

³ Anticipated costs are based on current cost of air travel and number of students participating. Activity costs may **rise** with increases in the cost of air travel or changing student numbers.

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Students from **disadvantaged backgrounds** will receive a travel grant as well as higher cost of living grant. To be eligible for a disadvantaged background status, you must meet at least one of the following (1-4):

- 1. Household income of £25,000 or below** (as assessed by Student Finance England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland),
- 2. In receipt of a BU Maintenance Bursary or BU Financial Support Fund for the current 2025/26 academic year.**
- 3. You meet one or more of the following:**
 - Student receiving Universal Credit or income-related benefits because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them, such as a child or partner
 - Care-experienced students (Students who have been or are currently in the care system (including living in care with foster carers, living in a children's home) or from a looked after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked after)
 - Students from low participation neighbourhoods (UK students only)
 - The Office for Students provides a tool to look at how likely young people are to participate in higher education across the UK, and shows how this varies by area. A low participation neighbourhood would be one where young people were not likely to participate in higher education).
 - Black and Minority Ethnic Students (UK students only)
 - Students who are the first in their family to attend university
 - Mature students (21 or older at the start of their programme, UG only)
 - Female students studying STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as defined by BU)
 - Students with caring responsibilities (Caring responsibilities are providing unpaid care to a family member or friend who could not cope without their support. This may be due to illness, disability, a mental health issue, or substance misuse.)
 - Estranged students (where a student does not have support from their parents due to a breakdown in their relationship or where neither of the student's parents can be found or it is not reasonably practicable to get in touch with either of them)
 - Refugees and asylum seekers
- 4. Students with additional learning needs (including students registered with ALS at BU):**
 - The term additional learning needs refers to learners with special education needs (SEN), including those whose SEN arise because they have a long-term disability that has a substantial and long-term effect on the ability to do everyday tasks or are in receipt of Disabled Student Allowance. This would include learners who identify as having a disability, special needs, or medical condition as categorised below:
 - Social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
 - Blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
 - Deaf or have a serious hearing impairment
 - A long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
 - Mental health condition such as depression, schizophrenia, or anxiety disorder
 - Specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D
 - Physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using limbs or using a wheelchair or crutches
 - Disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above

What will the Turing Scheme funding cover?

Turing Scheme funding provides grants to support students with **specific costs** related to undertaking their traineeship. The amount of the grant is determined by the length of the mobility and the destination country where the work is being undertaken. The sections below outline standard funding and funding for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Please note that the funding provided through the Turing Scheme is intended **as a contribution towards** the overall costs of undertaking this mobility. It is **NOT INTENDED to cover the entire costs incurred**.

You will receive an initial payment of 90% of funds upfront. After your activity is complete, you will be asked to complete a feedback survey and submit a blog. The remaining 10% will be paid after these requirements have been met.

1. Funding for Students from non-disadvantaged backgrounds

This funding consists of a cost-of-living grant.

Cost of Living Grant

To calculate the cost-of-living grant, destination countries are divided into two groups based on the cost of living in each country (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/turing-scheme-international-study-and-work-placements/list-of-destinations-and-grant-rates>). There is no travel grant for students who are not from disadvantaged backgrounds.

1. For activities in **Group 1** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - a. £19 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - b. £14 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration
2. For activities in **Group 2 or 3** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - a. £17 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - b. £12 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration.

Example Grant calculations for students from non-disadvantaged backgrounds

Traineeship Location	Traineeship Duration	Calculation	Total Grant
South Africa (Group 2 Country)	14 days	£17 x 14 days	£238

2. Funding for Students from disadvantaged backgrounds

This funding consists of a cost-of-living grant, a cost-of-living uplift, and a travel grant. Additional funding is available as outlined below for other costs related to undertaking a mobility.

Cost of Living Grant

To calculate the cost-of-living grant, destination countries are divided into two groups based on the cost of living in each country (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/turing-scheme-international-study-and-work-placements/list-of-destinations-and-grant-rates>).

1. For activities in **Group 1** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - a. £23 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - b. £18 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration
2. For activities in **Group 2 or 3** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - a. £21 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - b. £16 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration.

Travel Grant

Travel grants are **up to a maximum amount** which is calculated based on the destination country. Rates for each country can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/turing-scheme-international-study-and-work-placements/list-of-destinations-and-grant-rates>

Actual travel grants are paid based on actual travel spend. Students will be required to submit evidence of their travel expenses. Travel expenses refer to airfare for one return journey to/from the destination country. Commuting costs in country are NOT covered. Travel grants can only cover economy travel and will not cover any upgrades.

Where the actual cost of travel is less than the maximum allowed for the destination country, the difference will be subtracted from the final grant payment or invoiced to the student for repayment if needed.

Supplemental travel funding may be available to cover real travel cost for exceptionally expensive travel.

Other Funding

- Funding may be available to offset real costs related to:
- Passport costs
- Visa costs (this can include reasonable associated costs like translated documents and police certificates)
- Vaccines
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Certificates
- Actual costs for support directly related to **additional learning needs**. Receipts are required for these costs to be covered.

Example Grant calculations for students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Traineeship Location	Traineeship Duration	Calculation	Total Grant
South Africa (Group 2 Country)	14 days	(£21 x 14 days) + up to £905 travel grant	Up to £1143

Travel Information

Entry Requirements

You must have a valid passport with at least six months remaining from the date of your return departure to the UK. Please factor this into the timescales of your planned travel.

Applicants will be responsible to check the entry requirements to the specific country where they will undertake their mobility.

Please refer to the FCDO advice about entry requirements:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Visa Requirements

Applicants will be responsible to research whether they will need a visa to enter the specific country where they will undertake their mobility and how long it will take to obtain a visa. More information can be found here: [Visa/Permit Guidance for UK Students](#). Please note that the Global Engagement Hub is unable to provide additional visa advice.

Immunisations (if applicable)

Please refer to the NHS guidelines regarding immunisations:

[Travel vaccinations - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

You will need to book immunisations through your local GP at your own cost.

Insurance

BU will provide comprehensive Travel Cover for the duration of the overseas trip (please note that this cover is not valid for recent graduates).. Please note that you might be required by the host organisation/partner university to purchase a valid medical/health insurance for the duration of your stay.

Applicants are responsible for researching the types of insurance they are required to carry for their destination country. Some countries require specific medical insurance to meet visa conditions (ex: to obtain the relevant visa for a traineeship in the USA, you must hold insurance with \$100,00 or medical benefits, \$25,000 for repatriation of remains, \$50,000 for medical evacuation, and \$500 deductible for accident or illness).

If you are applying to go to a European destination, you could apply for a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or use an existing UK European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) if it is still valid. Please refer to the NHS guidelines regarding the UK GHIC/EHIC:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

Travel Implications

- There could be sudden changes that affect your travel plans, including changes to border control advice which may prevent travel and entry requirements in your host country or when re-entering the UK.
- **BU MUST approve travel before you depart.** Your travel plans should be in line with UK Foreign Correspondence and Development Office advice. Travel approval will be made on a case-by-case basis within two weeks of the start of the traineeship and, where travel is not possible, you may be able to start work remotely, depending on your host organisations requirements.
- Funding will only be paid where physical travel takes place and BU has approved travel in advance.
- The Global Engagement Hub will support you with the funding process. You will also be given support by your Placement Coordinator and Placement Development Advisor for activities that are part of a BU placement year.

Where do I apply and how?

Access your online Application form <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/bournemouth/african-insight-academy-activity-application-form-2025-26> . On your Application form you will be asked to complete two main sections:

(1) student information and eligibility requirements

In this section you will be asked to provide your student details including information about the Disadvantaged Background eligibility criteria and information about your mobility

(2) quality assessment

In this section you will be asked to:

- a. Outline your understanding of the relevance of interdisciplinary approaches to human-wildlife conflict, coexistence, and interactions
- b. Write a brief statement outlining how this experience will help you to develop your intercultural competence
- c. Describe how this experience will positively impact your academic performance
- d. State how this experience will enhance your growth and employability

It is your responsibility to ensure all the necessary information is provided correctly. Incomplete applications will be marked as void and removed from the process.

If you have questions about your application – please contact internationalgrants@bournemouth.ac.uk.

Please note the panel's decision is final and we cannot provide individual feedback on applications.

What will happen next if I am successful?

All applicants will be informed about the outcome of the application within four weeks of applying.

If you are successful, you will be required to attend a general pre-departure session. We will not be able to accept applicants who do not attend a pre-departure session within 2 weeks of being invited.

You may also be required to attend activity specific pre-departure sessions. Engagement with these sessions is a requirement of receiving funding.

Am I eligible to apply for future mobility programmes if my application is declined?

If your application is declined, you can apply again (assuming that you still meet the eligibility criteria). You can also apply for other activities.

Important notes

(1) Please ensure your email address is correct. **All communication will be sent to your student email address**, so please check this!

(2) If successful, your activity is subject to African Insight Academy finalising the terms of the arrangements for your activity.

Timeline

Student Call Launch: 27 October 2025

Application deadline: 20 November 2025

Interviews may be required. Dates and times will be confirmed later in the application process where this is required.