



SELF-DIRECTED RESEARCH & LONG-TERM INTERNSHIP

At the Elephant Conservation Center in Laos



At the



in cooperation with

WYSS
ACADEMY
FOR
NATURE

CONTACTS

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- **Head of Education & Research:** Anabel Lopez Perez: biologist@elephantconservationcenter.com
- **Site Manager:** Anthony Philippe: manager@elephantconservationcenter.com

Web: <https://www.elephantconservationcenter.com/>

You can view this [short video](#) presenting a typical 2-day stay at the Center.

PARTNERS



ASIAN ELEPHANT
SUPPORT



AN UNFORGETTABLE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AWAITS: STUDY ABROAD AT THE ELEPHANT CONSERVATION CENTER IN LAOS

Dear Educators,

At the Elephant Conservation Center (ECC), we believe students learn best when fully immersed in enriching experiences and unique adventures—far from the distractions of normal daily life. Where nature is the classroom, discovery is the mission, and learning and fun come together to instill a deep sense of wonderment. Such an opportunity exists for your students through our Three-Day, Four-Day and Five-Day Study Abroad Programs at the ECC's ECORE Center in Laos!

Why the Elephant Conservation Center?

Situated in the heart of Southeast Asia, our Study Aboard Program offers a rare opportunity to learn about Asian elephants in their natural habitat. Imagine your students following a herd of elephants through the lush forest, guided by expert conservationists, biologists, and mahouts. Or observing our veterinarians caring for elephants at our Elephant Hospital. These are among the many magical, immersive educational experiences at the ECC!

Educational Insights

Through our Study Abroad Program students learn about tropical ecosystems with a focus on endangered Asian elephants. They gain unique insights into the life-cycle and ecological importance of these magnificent creatures, deepening their understanding of the delicate balance within the ecosystem. This is a rare chance for your students to get up-close-and-personal with our staff who have dedicated their careers to the preservation of this endangered species.

Campus Experience

Nestled on the banks of the beautiful Nam Tien Lake in Sayaboury Province—and only 2.5 hours from the UNESCO World Heritage city of Luang Prabang—our ECORE campus is surrounded by a 540-hectare (1,350 acres) forest and the so-called 'Elephant Mountain Range.' Up to 40 students and their teachers can be accommodated in our charming lodging, dining, and teaching facilities.

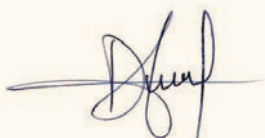
Beyond Conservation

In addition to the core educational activities provided by our program, students have the opportunity to engage in trekking, kayaking, yoga and meditation. Our newly established Bamboo Forest also offers an opportunity for gardening projects and bamboo handicraft production. These activities are designed to complement the educational aspects of our program, providing a well-rounded experience that combines adventure, learning, hands-on activities, and personal growth.

Next Steps

We understand the meticulous planning that goes into organizing study abroad programs, and we are here to assist you every step of the way. Our team is dedicated to ensuring that your students have a seamless and enriching experience that will support their academic and personal goals.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss the details further (or expand your students' experience beyond three days) please feel free to reach out to us. We would be delighted to tailor the program to meet your students' curricular needs. Thank you for considering this unique opportunity for your students. We believe the time they spend with us at the ECC will broaden their academic horizons and inspire a life-changing commitment to conservation and global responsibility.



Sebastien DUFFILLOT

Founder, Elephant Conservation Center
Member IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group

Thank You



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RESEARCH ABROAD

IN LAOS, SOUTHEAST ASIA

PROGRAM & RATES **P6**

PROJECT STAFF **P10**

COURSE NAME: Individual Research (Self-Directed)

REQUIREMENTS: Research Proposal (submit through online Application Form)

ACCOMMODATION: Dormitory, Bungalow, Forest House, Deluxe Lodge

PRICING: Refer to our **FEE STRUCTURE SHEET** for various costs

OVERVIEW: welcomes independent researchers who are passionate about advancing knowledge in elephant conservation and tropical ecology. Our programme offers the unique opportunity to conduct focused studies with our captive elephant population, supported by access to our fully equipped elephant hospital, endocrinology and DNA laboratories, and sample storage facilities. Researchers benefit from dedicated workspace, logistical assistance, and the expertise of our experienced team, as well as partnerships with the National University of Laos and other institutions. Whether working solo or collaborating with ECC staff, individuals are empowered to design and carry out meaningful projects that contribute to conservation science and local ecological understanding.

COURSE NAME: Long-Term Internship

REQUIREMENTS: Internship Subject Proposal (submit through online Application Form)

ACCOMMODATION: Dormitory, Bungalow, Forest House, Deluxe Lodge

PRICING: Refer to our **FEE STRUCTURE SHEET** for various costs

OVERVIEW: Our long-term internships provide immersive, hands-on experience in the vital fields of elephant welfare, behaviour monitoring, and conservation research. Interns work closely with ECC's expert team, engaging in field monitoring, data collection, and applied conservation activities within a supportive environment. With full-board accommodation, research office access, and assistance navigating permits and logistics, interns gain invaluable skills while contributing directly to conservation outcomes. The internship programme uniquely combines traditional local knowledge with modern scientific methods, offering access to captive elephants and fostering strong connections with government agencies, NGOs, and academic partners.

PROGRAM & RATES

SELF-DIRECTED RESEARCH & LONG-TERM INTERNSHIPS

Overview

Whether you're conducting academic research or seeking immersive field experience, the Elephant Conservation Center provides rare access to Asian elephants in a real-world conservation setting. With on-site scientific facilities and expert guidance, our research and internship placements support meaningful contributions to elephant welfare, tropical ecology, and applied conservation.

ECC is the only facility in Asia to have received the Conservation Gold Award from the Asian Captive Elephant Standards. This recognition reflects our commitment to ethical elephant care, scientific research, and conservation outcomes.

RESEARCH OPTIONS

Self-Directed Research

Ideal for postgraduate students, researchers, or professionals pursuing independent studies related to elephant behaviour, welfare, conservation, or tropical ecology.

- Work independently with access to ECC's labs, hospital, and scientific facilities
- Supervision and field support available as needed
- Opportunities for data collection, behavioural observation, or ecological research
- Collaborate with ECC's science team or partner universities

Summary:

This placement allows you to design and implement your own research project with access to ECC's elephant hospital, laboratory facilities, and dedicated research support. You'll benefit from logistical assistance and guidance while contributing to the growing body of conservation knowledge.

Who Should Apply

For postgraduate students, academics, or independent researchers with clearly defined projects in elephant science, ecology, or wildlife conservation.

LONG-TERM INTERNSHIP

Suited for students and recent graduates in conservation, veterinary science, biology, environmental studies, or related fields.

- Participate in behaviour monitoring and data collection
- Assist with care routines, enrichment, and health checks
- Support ECC's daily operations and conservation initiatives
- Gain insight into Lao culture and conservation policy
- Build skills in fieldwork, wildlife handling, and ecological observation

Summary:

Interns work alongside ECC's vets, biologists, and mahouts to support animal care, behavioural studies, and conservation outreach. The internship offers practical experience and mentorship in a supportive, multicultural environment.

Who Should Apply

Open to students and recent graduates in biology, veterinary science, or environmental studies looking for hands-on field experience and skill development.

FEES & INCLUSIONS

Pricing

Fees vary based on duration, support needs, and accommodation type.

Refer to our **Fee Structure Sheet** for a full breakdown.

Facilities & Support

- Access to the ECC's elephant hospital, endocrinology and DNA laboratories, and sample storage
- Support from in-house vets, biologists, and project coordinators
- Onsite accommodation with optional upgrades
- Field logistics assistance and mentorship available

Accommodation

Included in dormitory-style housing.

Upgrades available to bungalows, forest houses, or deluxe lodges at an additional cost.

Application Requirements

All applicants must submit:

- CV and Cover Letter outlining interests, goals, and relevant background
- Research Proposal (for self-directed researchers)
- List of Expectations (what you hope to learn or achieve)
- Two professional reference letters (e.g., academic supervisor or employer)

Refer to our **Research Proposal Guide** for full details on formatting and expectations.

FOR YOU...

PROJECT STAFF

...WITH YOU

Anabel López Pérez



Photo: © Kiko Peltier

HEAD OF EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Anabel joined the ECC at its inception and never left. Her enthusiasm and energy are contagious. She began by limiting interaction with elephants, then by establishing herding protocols that now form the backbone of our rewilding programme. A biologist with limited knowledge of Asian elephants when she arrived in Laos, Anabel's expertise has grown rapidly, and today she is a renowned Asian elephant behaviour expert contributing her work to several leading research institutes, including the Smithsonian Institution and the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group.

In 2025, Anabel was awarded a PhD from Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Her groundbreaking research explored how different management approaches affect metabolism, stress, social structure, and reproduction in captive Asian elephants, offering valuable insights into welfare and conservation practices in both Laos and Thailand.

Anabel has a deep passion for elephants, and the ECC has become the sanctuary where she fully expresses this commitment—shaping elephant care and conservation in the region through science.

Elizabeth Thompson



ECORE PROGRAMME & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Originally from Sydney, Australia, Libby joined the Elephant Conservation Center in early 2024, bringing with her a strong background in communications, marketing, and wildlife work. Prior to arriving in Laos, she spent two years working with animals in Australia, where her passion for conservation, education and sustainability deepened. With a Bachelor of Advanced Study from Sydney University and over six years' experience in communications, she now leads the development and promotion of the ECORE Programme. Combining her skills in strategic outreach, partnership building, and academic collaboration, Libby works to strengthen conservation efforts, inspire future conservationists, and contribute to the long-term protection of Asian elephants.

Kan Thissamone



Photo: © Romain Willekens

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

Kan was working with ElefantAsia NGO for several years as an assistant veterinary technician, boarding the organisation's Mobile Veterinary Clinics to provide first aid to elephants wounded on logging sites. He developed an intimate relationships with the country's mahouts while learning veterinary techniques with international veterinarians and staff from the Lao Department of Livestock. When the NGO's projects were eventually autonomised in 2012, Kan naturally proposed to join the Elephant Conservation Center and help with the design and operations of the country's first Elephant Hospital. Sparing no effort to improve the elephants' diet and health, Kan is supervising the supplementary food production unit, positive reinforcement and musth control protocols, mahouts' daily meetings as well as providing veterinary care to elephants in need at the ECC or outside of it. His skills, learned in the field, have earned him due respect from mahouts and the Asian elephant conservation community. His numerous contributions at various elephant care workshops throughout the region (India, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar) are always highly valued and have largely contributed to the excellent reputation of the Elephant Conservation Center abroad.

Anthony Philippe



Photo: © Philip J. Harris

SITE MANAGER

Anthony Philippe left France in 2014 for an eco-volunteer world tour, with his NGO "Around the Rock". During his 50.000 kilometers trip, he worked alongside wildlife conservationists from many walks of lives. In Kyrgyzstan, he participated in the counting of raptors, the fight against poaching and crossed paths with snow leopards. He crossed China and Tibet before arriving in Laos where he settled in 2015. Anthony first worked with "Free the Bears" before taking over the site management of the ECC.

As ECC's Site Manager, Anthony takes care of all aspects of human resources management, security and logistics necessary for the smooth running of the various operations at the ECC. Anthony is your contact on site and outside the Center when you need permits, administrative and logistics support. He runs our "Kids in Conservation" program with local schools in cooperation with the Department of Education of Sayaboury Province.



elephant conservation center

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