

# STUDY ABROAD

## Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary ATE 2947 Veterinary Work Practicum V December 2023

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**COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER:** ATE 2947

**COURSE NAME: Veterinary Work Practicum V**

Animals are the heart and soul of Africa, but in recent years many have become, or are already in real danger of becoming extinct. The decline of some of Africa's most iconic species is due to many factors including deforestation, poaching, and illegal hunting activities. Nestled within the heart of a vast African savannah, the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary stands as one of the country's leading conservation organizations. The sanctuary provides a lifeline to many of Africa's in-need wildlife species, taking in animals that have either become orphaned or injured as a result of the enduring human-animal conflict. Volunteers help the sanctuary provide a safe refuge for its animals and support them in their primary aim of releasing as many animals as possible into safe conservation areas. But while the project's mantra is to 'return the wild to the wild', some of the animals here are either too injured or habituated to survive on their own, meaning they will spend the rest of their days at the sanctuary. With hundreds of animals unable to be released, it is important that they are given a positive quality of life, and volunteers at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary experience hands-on conservation efforts.

## STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Approval for participation in the program is subject to the participant:

- Being in good academic standing at the time of application (cannot be on academic warning, probation, or suspension).
- Being enrolled for credit in an approved Study Abroad program course.
- Interviewing with the program's lead faculty member.
- Being approved by the Center for International Programs. Paying all deposits and fees according to the fee schedule.
- Obtaining all immunizations required by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In addition, participants are strongly encouraged to get all immunizations and preventative treatments recommended for the country and regions through which they will be traveling.

## MEETING INFORMATION/ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The college-wide attendance policy is included in the Syllabus Addendum <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/policies.htm> . The policy notes that each instructor is to exercise professional judgment and define "active participation" in class (and therefore "attendance") and publish that definition in each syllabus. For this class, weekly attendance will be based on your login to the course.

The program plan for this class (class meetings and activities, etc.) meets or exceeds the requirement of 100 contact hours for the course.

## COURSE CONTENT:

The student will learn the specific needs of captive big cats and various species of captive wildlife by:

- a. Participating in big cat conservation at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary practicing tasks and duties in the workplace specific to the care and husbandry of big cats as well as other species residing at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary

- b. Participating in making and utilizing forms of enrichment for captive wildlife at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary
- c. Participating in any special projects in progress at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. Critically reflect on individual growth and transformation by participating in the blogs in the course assignments
- e. Demonstrate professional competencies through practical engagement with onsite veterinary staff and the application of intercultural communication skills, attitudes, and values in daily interactions

### **Course Objectives:**

- a. The student will demonstrate an understanding of big cat conservation.
- b. The student will demonstrate an understanding of and be able to perform skills relating to the care and husbandry of captive wild animals.
- c. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the mental and emotional needs of various species of captive wildlife.
- d. The student will be able to tend to the emotional, mental, and physical needs of various species of captive wildlife.

### **PREREQUISITES (IF APPLICABLE):**

Admission into the BAS or AS Veterinary technology program and approval from academic chair

### **GRADING:**

Grades will be based on your posting a minimum of 3 blogs to SPC international boards:  
 Each post is at least 100 words including at least 1 picture in one of the blogs.  
 Each posts chronicles the activities in which you have participated during your time at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary  
 Deportment/professionalism and work ethic while on site  
 Completion of presentation portfolio within 2 weeks of return.  
 Attendance at all pre-departure and re-entry meetings

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. Read about the policy at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>. There is no tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on that specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly, the ideas are someone else's, so you still must cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication are defined in Rule 6Hx23-4.461, Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior.

### TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

None

### ASSIGNMENTS:

Required blogs	100 points
Attendance at all pre departure meetings	100 points
Presentation Portfolio	200 points
Required Re- entry meeting	100 points
In country Activity Participation	200 points
Professionalism	100 points

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Packet to be provided to students upon acceptance.

### ITEMS TO PACK:

Packet to be provided to students upon acceptance.

### STUDENT CONDUCT / ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY:

Please refer to important information about student conduct and related policies in your study abroad application package.

**Professionalism:** You are expected to be a representative of the SPC Veterinary Technology Program at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary. Proper deportment is required at all times. Expectations of students include:

- Adherence to rules set forth by SPC instructors, The Great Projects, and the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary program facilitators
- Fulfillment of the roles and responsibilities expected of the student while in country
- Observance of all cultural norms, traditions, and expectations including speech, actions, and dress
- Practice of courtesy and respect for all
- Use of appropriate language, behavior, and attitude

- Respect for the provided accommodations

Students are to treat this trip as though they are in a classroom. You are representing St. Petersburg College as well as the United States in general. Your conduct during travel and while in country should reflect this.

- **Be on Time.** Arrive 5-10 minutes prior to your scheduled time to be at work. This allows for time to put personal belongings away and prepare to get to work.
- **Dress Appropriately.** Your uniform and general presentation should be neat and clean. You will be expected to adhere to local customs regarding dress code. Expect to be wet/dirty/hot and dress accordingly. Be mindful of jewelry - dangling necklaces, earrings, bracelets or other body decor that may result in injury to the student or animal.
- **Observe all local customs and laws.** The student shall remain mindful of all local customs and laws and behave in a manner so as not to offend our hosts and residents. Be mindful of what you say or do to ensure that you always present yourself as a professional to the eyes and ears of the hosts and other volunteers.

## EMERGENCIES/HEALTH & SAFETY:

Please refer to important information in pre-departure orientation materials.

## LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISORY FOR STUDY ABROAD DESTINATION(S):

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

This information is subject to change; please check this source again as departure time nears.

## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you anticipate requesting from the Learning Specialist, an accommodation for a **documented** disability, it is important to notify the International Programs office as soon as possible that you plan to make a request. Please also make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus to make your request as soon as possible. The Learning Specialist can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), or 341-4532 (AC).

## Requirement 1f

### Description of cultural immersion activities and additional excursions

Students will be living onsite at the Namibia Wildlife Sanctuary and will have evenings and weekends off to participate in local excursions. There is an opportunity to volunteer at the Clever Cubs School (located at the sanctuary) providing an educational activity and one sports activity for the children of the local bushman, as well as some of the children whose parents work at the sanctuary. A trip to Windhoek, the capital city, can be arranged for a weekend afternoon. On Saturday nights there is also a traditional African braai (BBQ) where volunteers can socialize with the staff and fellow volunteers. For an additional fee (\$96), one of the weeks can be spent at **TimBila Nature Reserve** monitoring the relocated conflict carnivores, as well as aiding the

research efforts to allow for the future introduction of elephants and rhinos to the area, and tracking the carnivores using GPS and spoor methods, collecting, and analyzing camera trap data. OR, for an additional (\$96), one of the weeks can be spent at the **Kanaan Conservation and Research Site** helping to record statistical data on the species found here, ultimately aiding the long-term management of the area by taking part in activities such as mapping, radio telemetry and game counts. Kanaan is one of the most picturesque areas in all of Namibia and is also a vital location for the conservation of big cats.

## **Requirement 1g**

### **Suggested safety precautions and arrangements.**

Please see the list of vaccines recommended by the CDC.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/namibia>

The lead faculty member on the trip will carry emergency safety supplies appropriate for the environment and first aid care.

In addition, specifics regarding safety in an unfamiliar environment are covered in participant orientation, including the Study Abroad Emergency Checklist. This checklist covers knowing where to go in emergencies (how to get there, transportation options), emergency contact information (home and local) and contact numbers (local 911 equivalent, embassy, police, hospital, etc.), back-up plans, special conditions, emergency kits, and cash reserves and alternatives. Closer to the time of travel, current safety conditions can be obtained from the State Department via the Internet. All participants are required to carry international health insurance that covers \$100,000 accident/sickness coverage, including evacuation and repatriation of remains that will be included in your trip fees.

[https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/namibia?s\\_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001#travel-notice](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/namibia?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001#travel-notice)