Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience

EPIC ADVANTAGE: Animal Behavior and Conservation in the Tarangire Region, Tanzania

Dates: June 2 - 29, 2019

Leaders: Brent Smith and Wendy Tori

Credits: 3 credits (credit/no credit)

Application Deadline: October 15, 2018

Description of Experience and Research:

We will be on a camping safari in and around the Tarangire region of northern Tanzania, an area of great concentrations of African savanna wildlife. Early on we will visit several national parks observing wildlife, then conduct behavioral research on an animal of choice at one location. We will spend a good amount of time interacting with Maasai people indigenous to the area and see how they are impacted by wildlife, and what roles they are playing and can play in wildlife conservation. The program will include a multi-day homestay with the Maasai.

Faculty:

Brent Smith, Emeritus Professor of Biology, is a forest ecologist. He has led many semester-long Earlham off-campus study programs to East Africa with animal behavior and conservation as major foci. He has particular interests in how indigenous people are impacted by, and can contribute to, wildlife conservation.

Wendy Tori, Associate Professor of Biology is an ornithologist and ecologist. Her specialty is animal behavioral ecology, particularly of birds. She has led off-campus study programs to New Zealand, Peru, Bahamas and Borneo and has conducted research with students in Ecuador and Peru as well as Indiana.

Expectations for Students:

Ecological Biology (BIOL 111), AND an adventurous outlook on life. Two papers will be required: one group paper reporting research on the behavior of an animal of choice, and an individually written paper describing conservation efforts in Tarangire and directions that could be taken effectively in the future.
Dates of Experience:
June 2 - 29, 2019

Travel To and From Site:
Students will arrive at and depart from the Kilimanjaro Airport in Tanzania on regularly scheduled KLM flights from Amsterdam, Holland.

Application Dates:
Applications can be received from students starting on Sept. 15, 2018. Application window closes on Oct. 15, 2018.

Link to Application:
Apply in Handshake

Preparation:
Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Student Eligibility:
Rising Sophomores, rising juniors, or rising seniors are eligible to apply. Pre-requisite ECOBIO

Cost to Student:
This experience is funded as an EPIC ADVANTAGE opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board, and other expenses required by the program. Passports and immunizations as well as other personal expenses will be covered by students. Students who are accepted and withdraw after January 15, 2019 must reimburse the college for all expenses committed on their behalf.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/