TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

ADVANCED INSTITUTE FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

VANDALUR

ANNOUNCEMENT

WINTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME, 2026-27

ADVT. No: 05 / 2026/D dated 19 .11.2026

Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) is a premier research institution set up by the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu, primarily to provide scientific solutions to conservation related problems. The Institute conducts multidisciplinary wildlife research, capacity building in wildlife conservation, training programs and advisories in wildlife research by partnering with leading research institutions in India. AIWC has been conducting internship programmes for students to cater the academic needs of post- graduate students across the State. In order to attract more students to work in the field of wildlife conservation, the programme will continue in 2026-27 under the Centre for Conservation Education.

The objectives of the internship programme are: -

1. To provide a framework by which post-graduate students or students pursuing post-graduation from diverse academic backgrounds, may conduct research at AIWC, to enhance their educational experience through practical work assignments.

2. To provide the Institute's expertise and facilities to the highly motivated and talented students to conduct research in key thematic areas in wildlife conservation in Tamil Nadu.

Age limit:

Below 28 years

Duration:

The duration of the certificate course ranges from 1 month to 2 months depends on the area of research work.

Mode of Admission:

The candidates will be selected on the basis of merit (marks) scored in the degree and post-graduation degree programme and direct evaluation of student profile/ academic interest by internal committee of AIWC. Applications for the winter internship programme must be duly forwarded by the student along with bonafide certificate and letters of reference from Head of the Institution in which the student is currently studying.

Project based Positions:

Winter Internship Programme is essentially a laboratory or field-based programme with due emphasis given for conducting a field-based project that can be supplemented with data from labs.

The programme will mainly focus towards supporting the regular activities as well as ongoing projects of the institute. The winter internship programme could be in the specified focus area of the institute as presented below;

I. APO 2025-26

- Assessment of multi-gene amplification approach for strengthening the mammalian sex identification through molecular DNA analysis
- Integrated morphological identification of wildlife species using hair from different body regions: a combined approach of light microscopy, SEM and FTIR
- Prevalence and diagnosis of infectious diseases in bird species across conservation sites in Tamil Nadu
- Evaluating the efficiency of Immuno-contraceptive vaccine in camp elephants of Tamil Nadu- Second phase
- Continuation and Strengthening of the Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) Facility at AIWC
- Species diversity and genetic variability of Cicadas and chemical adaptation of a cicada species to the host plant *Alstonia scholaris* in Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- Assessment of Invasive Fishes in and around selected RAMSAR Sites and Bird Sanctuaries of Tamil Nadu
- Distribution, Habitat Suitability, Activity Patterns, and Conservation Threats of Small Wild Cats (Jungle Cat, Leopard Cat, and Rusty-Spotted Cat) Across Tamil Nadu

II. State Planning Commission funded project

1. Development of a microsatellite panel for differentiating cattle, Indian gaur and deer to the level of species and individuality. (TANII scheme)

2. Assessing Biodiversity Recovery in Restored Wild Ecosystems: Post-Invasive Species Removal

III. Legislative Announcements 2025-2026

1. Establishment of Tamil Nadu Raptors Research Foundation (TNRFF)
2. Conservation of Bengal Fox and Jackal for the ecological balance of habitat
3. Tracking fine-scale movements of Olive Ridley Turtles of Tamil Nadu coast and near-shore through Telemetry study for a period of two years

No. of Interns required for the programme

S. No	Project Domain	Number of Interns
1.	Centre for Wildlife Forensic Sciences	1
2.	Centre for Animal Care Sciences	1
3.	Centre for Conservation Education	1
4.	Centre for Conservation Ecology	1
5.	Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics	1
6.	Centre for Species Survival	1

Eligibility:

Students undergoing Master's programme in Wildlife Biology, Ecology, Zoology, Forestry, Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering and Environmental Sciences, Microbiology, & Marine Biology.

An internal committee of the institute will screen scholars in the required field of work and upon acceptance by the Director, AIWC, permission would be granted to conduct the research work on the concerned topic. The interns will present and defend their findings and submit both hard and soft copies of the project work, in the prescribed format to Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Chennai

Publications:

The results of research project will be encouraged to publish in standard refereed journals as well as other popular forms of scientific documentation at the discretion of Director, AIWC. Due authorship will be given to all researchers and other team members, who have contributed to research papers.

Mode of Application:

The application form and other information could be downloaded from Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation website http://www.aiwc.res.in

Documents needed from the applicant includes;

- Application form in the prescribed format.
- Curriculum Vitae of the applicant.
- Letter of Intent from the applicant (Not exceeding 1000 words).
- No Objection Certificate from the College / University.
- Letter of recommendation from Head of Institution.
- Copy of College ID card.

The duly filled-in application form along with required documents in the prescribed format must be submitted through email at aiwcrte@tn.gov.in **on or before 03.12.2026.** The documents will be checked in original, once the application is accepted.

General Terms and Conditions:

1. The AIWC internship programme is purely on voluntary basis and subject to screening process.
2. The interns should abide to the usual terms and specific conditions laid down by the Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Vandalur.
3. The interns will be subjected to periodical monitoring by AIWC authorities, regarding the progress of study work.
4. In case of field study, the interns should contact the concerned Forest Range Officers/ Foresters and intimate them in advance about their visits and should not venture into the Protected Areas or Forests without the support of Forest Department staff / Biologists during their field study. To facilitate that Director, AIWC shall issue authorization letters to concerned DFO`s well in advance.
5. Sample collection, if any, should be done in the presence of Forest Department staff. The interns may collect the required secondary data specific to their study from the respective Forest and Wildlife Divisions as per its availability.
6. The interns should not harm any flora or fauna of the Protected Areas / Reserved of Forests.
7. The interns should not carry any inflammable material objects or kindle fire in any part of the Protected Areas.
8. The Government/Department / Institute shall not be held liable for any unforeseen incidents, injuries or accidents, including those resulting from fire incidents or wild animal attacks, that may occur during the course of the study period.
9. The interns should not share any wildlife related details with anyone without the knowledge of the Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Vandalur and also should not publish the same in any Scientific Journals and share with any private organizations.
10. The interns should submit two copies of final study report (both in soft and hard copy) to the Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, after the completion of their study period
11. If the interns do not submit the final study report to this office, the candidates from the concerned College / Department /Institute will not be considered for future internship.

Sd/ **- R.Padamawathe,**
Chief Conservator
of Forests & Director,
AIWC (R, T & E) Vandalur

//t.c.b.o.//

Superintendent

19/11/26

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

ADVANCED INSTITUTE FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

VANDALUR

APPLICATION FORM FOR INTERNSHIP

1. Name of the applicant: _____

_____

_____

Phone/Fax # _____

Email _____

B. Permanent residential address with *pin code* _____

_____

_____

Phone/Fax # _____

2. Date of birth_____Age in years (as on 01.10.2026) _____

3. (a) Academic achievements:

Examinations Passed	Year	University	Subject	Percentage of Marks Obtained
Bachelor's Degree				
Master's Degree				
Others				

(b) Creative achievement (State briefly your bio data as research worker/giving details of research papers, participation in seminar, symposium, conference, etc.).
(*Furnish this information in a separate sheet*)

4. National parks, sanctuaries & forest areas visited, and a paragraph on self interest in the field of wildlife conservation & research.

5. Areas of research interest. *(Details may be given in a separate sheet).*

6. Choice of Centre for internship:

S.No.	Centre	Kindly tick the subject of interest
1	Centre for Wildlife Forensic Sciences	
2	Centre for Animal Care Sciences	
3	Centre for Conservation Education	
4	Centre for Conservation Ecology	
5	Centre for Conservation & Evolutionary Genetics	
6	Centre for Species Survival	

7. Name, complete postal address and phone number of two referees should be given below.

   1. 2.

8. List of attachments

S.No.	Attachments required	Status (Yes/No)
1.	Curriculum vitae	
2.	Letter of intent from applicant (not more than 1000 words)	
3.	No Objection certificate from college/university	
4.	Recommendation letter from Head of Institution	
5.	Photocopy of College ID card	

I,_____hereby, certify that the information furnished above are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Place: **Date:** **(Signature of the Applicant)**