

Announcement

Volunteer for the Project: Natural History Collections

Application Deadline: Open throughout the year

Start date: At the applicant's convenience

Duration: 3 months (minimum)

Introduction

We invite you to apply to a volunteer position in our Natural History Collections. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the study of biodiversity in the Galapagos Islands and the preservation of our collections, working alongside a team committed to researching native and endemic species. You will have first-hand experience with the work carried out at the Charles Darwin Foundation to contribute to the knowledge and conservation of the biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands.

The four Natural History Collections (Terrestrial Invertebrates, Herbarium, Marine Organisms and Vertebrates) held by the Charles Darwin Foundation are fundamental to increasing knowledge about the biodiversity of Galapagos. This biodiversity information is then used for planning and implementing conservation activities. Therefore, specimens from the collections are stored in optimal conditions to preserve them over time, so that they can provide historical, geographical and biological information to this and future generations of researchers.

The Natural History Collections house more than 135,000 specimens, making them the largest repository of Galapagos biodiversity in the world. Currently, the collections are involved in various activities aimed at exploring the biodiversity of Galapagos and promoting its conservation, including:

- **Scientific research:** Development of studies and projects to better understand the biodiversity of Galapagos ecosystems.
- **Curation, restoration and conservation:** Maintenance, restoration and conservation of specimens to ensure their preservation.
- **Documentation and cataloging:** Registration and organization of specimens to facilitate access and study.
- **Scientific talks:** Organization of presentations and discussions on relevant scientific topics.
- **Field trips and collecting:** Expeditions to collect new specimens and expand the collection.
- **Exhibits and educational visits:** Creation of activities designed to educate students and visitors about Galapagos biodiversity and its importance.

Required profile

- Knowledge of, or a degree in, Biology, Environmental Sciences or closely related fields.
- Strong scientific interest in any of the Galapagos biodiversity groups.
- Interest in reading scientific papers.

- Good organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Previous experience working with natural history collections is a plus.
- Experience in photography and skills in Excel, R, GIS would be an asset.
- A highly motivated individual with excellent interpersonal skills is preferred.
- Ability to work in a multicultural and multilingual team is a plus.
- Confidence in presentation skills to local or visiting audiences.

Responsibilities

- Assist in the photo shoot and digitization of specimens.
- Assist in the organization of specimens.
- Contribute to the elaboration of scientific publications with specimens (e.g., new taxa records, descriptions of new species, etc.).
- Help with curatorial activities.
- Contribute to the preparation of outreach material for the local community and visitors.
- Assist in field trips to collect specimens.
- Maintain and monitor specific climatic conditions required for the collections.
- Support in the composition and presentation of information to local or visiting audiences.
- Support in any other activity of the Natural History Collections, if required.

Volunteer Conditions

The volunteer will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos, Ecuador. The volunteer will be under the supervision of the scientist responsible for the project and will comply with the daily work schedule established by the CDF.

CDF will provide the equipment and materials necessary for the development of the project.

A volunteer assignment with CDF does not imply an ongoing relationship with the volunteer beyond the intended duration of the assignment. CDF will arrange entry permits to Galapagos, but will require the cooperation of the volunteer in his or her country of residence to coordinate with the appropriate Ecuadorian embassy to grant the visa. CDF will not process visas that exceed the duration of the assignment.

How to apply

Applicants must include the application form and its attachments in a single PDF file with their name. This information will be sent to the following e-mail address vol@fcdarwin.org.ec.