Student Training Programme:
Fully-funded river expedition training for aspiring MSc students

A scholarship partnership between The Wilderness Project and Chinhoyi University of Technology

Are you an aspiring scientist eager to study and help protect Africa's rivers and key water sources? Are you ready to work in challenging field conditions and contribute pioneering research across the continent?

The Wilderness Project (TWP) studies the freshwater ecology and hydrology of Africa's key river systems to help safeguard them, focusing on the Okavango, Zambezi, Congo and Nile river basins. Much of this work is done on research expeditions by canoe along rivers and their major tributaries.

This scholarship, a partnership between TWP and Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT), offers expedition-based field training on a river expedition in Zimbabwe. It is aimed at aspiring MSc students from across Africa in freshwater-related disciplines. Current MSc students seeking a research project for the second year of their degree are also welcome to apply.

What you will learn: Participants are trained in the field by TWP scientists and work within a small multidisciplinary team. Key skills include:

- Freshwater ecology methods: water quality sampling and aquatic biodiversity surveys
- Hydrological methods: measuring river flow, discharge and channel characteristics
- Field data collection, management and quality control
- Working safely in remote expedition conditions

Your role: Participants collect and record data following TWP protocols, share expedition duties and contribute to the expedition report. Many of our student researchers go on to further studies with our support, and some have become full-time members of our team.

Find out more: https://www.thewildernessproject.org/research/student-programme

Requirements:

- Bachelors degree in a relevant subject (eg. environmental science or similar)
- Physically fit and able to work in challenging field conditions
- Willingness to work in remote locations with limited power, internet and amenities • Committed to working effectively as part of a small, diverse, multidisciplinary team.
- Passionate about freshwater!

Finances: This is a fully-funded training opportunity. We will cover travel to and from your home, board, lodging and all expedition expenses. We also offer a stipend of $15 per day.

How to apply: Please send your CV, along with a Cover Letter explaining your research interests and how these make you the ideal candidate to join a river expedition in Zimbabwe, to Dr Annah Mabidi (Chinhoyi University of Technology) on **amabidi@cut.ac.zw**

Selection: Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in January or February 2027.

Deadline for applications: 23rd November 2026