Galapagos Islands Field Intensive (GIFI): evolution, conservation and management

8 - 25 November 2018

COURSE OUTLINE

A unique cooperation partnership between Charles Darwin University and the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands will enable students enrolled in this unit to have hands-on experience learning about evolution, island biogeography, biodiversity and endemity in Charles Darwin’s Galapagos Islands. Students will also learn about the main threats to islands and what is being done for their conservation and management.

This two week field intensive will provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to be mentored by in-situ scientists from Charles Darwin Foundation and carry out scientific research in different projects addressing Galapagos’ current scientific and management needs. A partnership between the Government of Ecuador and the Charles Darwin Foundation for the past 58 years has ensured that science is behind the conservation of the Galapagos so it remains one of the most pristine oceanic archipelagos on Earth.

To complement their experience at the Foundation, students will then join a chartered seven day live-aboard cruise which will include some of the most exciting sites in the Galapagos. Students will be able to see many Galapagos endemics such as the flightless cormorant, the marine iguana,
Galapagos penguins and Darwin’s finches thriving in amazing marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Students will also gain cultural awareness and confidence in different community settings across a range of backgrounds, skills and experiences. The program will also emphasise ethical practice and leadership working in a cross-cultural environment.

The Galapagos Islands Field Intensive is available as both an undergraduate and masters level unit. Students from other universities can attend through cross-institutional enrolment in the unit. Preference will be given to Charles Darwin University students.