



EIDPS029



**Submit by Monday 30 January 2012**

## APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 18

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

**1. Name and address of UK Host organisation** (NB: Notification of results will be by email and addressed to the main K Expert listed in Section 5)

<b>Name:</b> Centre for Biological Sciences	<b>Address:</b> University of Southampton, Life Sciences Building 85, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK
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**2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow** (include email and telephone details where available)

Said Manuel Gutierrez  
Environmental Research Institute,  
University of Belize  
Price Centre Road, PO box 340,  
Belmopan  
Belize, Central America

**3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested**

**Proposed start date:** 1 September 2012 **Duration of project:** 1 year **End date:** 30 September 2013

Darwin funding requested	2012/13	2013/14	Total
	£16,190.-	£13,415.-	£29,605

**4. Summary of proposed Fellowship (no more than 100 words)** ie Purpose and expected outputs and outcome

The Darwin Fellow, Mr Said Gutierrez, will undertake postgraduate study through an MSc in Conservation and Biodiversity at the University of Exeter (UoE). This will compliment the practical training in field work, data management and analysis that he has received during the Darwin Initiative Belize large-mammal corridor project. The combination of practical training on the Darwin project with the rigorous theoretical and analytical training in conservation science offered by the MSc will ensure that he will return to Belize as a well-trained scientist, ready to work with the Environmental Research Institute, and to enact the legacy of the Darwin project.

**5. Principals in the Project.** Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisations (and other institutions if relevant) who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Fellow. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than one overseas project partner.

Details	Main UK expert	Other expert	Other expert	Other expert	Other expert
<b>Surname</b>	Doncaster	Harmsen	Foster	Kay	Godley
<b>Forename(s)</b>	C. Patrick	Bart	Rebecca	Elma	Brendan
<b>Post held</b>	Reader in Ecology	Panthera Jaguar Research Fellow in Wildlife Conservation	Director of Panthera's Belize Jaguar Program	Director of the Environmental Research Institute	Associate Professor of Conservation Biology
<b>Institution (if different to UK Host)</b>	University of Southampton	University of Belize	Panthera (USA, NY)	Environmental Research Institute, University of Belize	University of Exeter
<b>Department</b>	Centre for Biological Sciences	Environmental Research Institute	Jaguar Program	Terrestrial program	Centre for Ecology and Conservation
<b>Telephone</b>					
<b>Email</b>					

**6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the UK Host organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)**

The Centre for Biological Sciences at the University of Southampton (UoS) aims to advance biological knowledge by research, communicate biological understanding through learning, and apply biological know-how for the benefit of society. The Centre currently hosts the Belize Large-Mammal Corridor Project (Darwin 17-012). Project leader Dr C. P. Doncaster has made numerous visits to the applicant's home institution, and worked with him in the field and lab. Dr Doncaster will advise on the applicant's research project during his study programme at Exeter University, and will extend the applicant's access to all Southampton electronic resources that he currently benefits from as part of the Darwin project 17-012. These include electronic journals, Web of Science, JStore, and many other search tools and archives for global scholarship. The Centre currently has no MSc course in conservation. The applicant will therefore enrol on the University of Exeter (UoE) MSc in Conservation and Biodiversity.

**7. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Darwin Fellow's employing organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)**

The Environmental Research Institute (ERI) of the University of Belize aims to build national capacity for effective management, sustainable use and conservation of Belize's natural resources. The Darwin Initiative Belize large-mammal corridor project is a good example of the model that ERI uses to build capacity. Young Belizeans with aptitude and motivation receive hands-on training in ecological research and applied conservation to foster a next generation of in-country experts. Having the Darwin Fellow further his education at the postgraduate level will strengthen the institutional capacity of the ERI and assist in upholding the mission and vision of the institute. The ERI will support the Darwin Fellow in his pursuit of higher education and professional development and the institute will benefit greatly from newly acquired knowledge to impart to the greater cause of conservation in Belize.

**8. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and their link to a Darwin project (If applicable), including the project reference number, his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement. (200 words)**

Said Gutierrez, works as the Darwin Junior Wildlife Biologist at the ERI on Darwin project #17-012. He works closely with the project coordinators, receiving training and working to achieve the goals of the project. He collects and manages field data to investigate movement patterns and estimate density of mammal species using large-scale camera trapping, live trapping, sign surveys, radio telemetry, spatial analysis (GIS) and mark-recapture analysis. He is directly responsible for the telemetry in the field, working with field assistants from the local communities within the corridor, and with national and international interns. He is responsible for maintaining the telemetry database, analysis of telemetry data and organising the field team. Mr Gutierrez has represented the ERI and the Darwin project at various national meetings and workshops, most recently presenting the corridor research at the 1<sup>st</sup> Belize-Mexican Symposium for Research Collaboration on Biodiversity & Natural Sciences and the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference. Funding for Mr Gutierrez's position as the Darwin Junior Wildlife Biologist comes to an end in June 2012. However, we anticipate that he will continue to collaborate with the ERI and its partners during his post-graduate training to analyse telemetry data and prepare manuscripts for publication.

**9. Provide a concept note on the Darwin Fellowship (maximum 1,000 words). This should include:**

- a clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship
- the role of the UK Host organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)
- where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards sustainable development or sustainable livelihoods ie what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative

In line with the Darwin Initiative, the ERI's mission is to conduct science and create a culture of evidence-based decision making in the public and private sector in areas relevant to natural resource management, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development at the national level. In order to achieve this, the ERI needs well-trained post-graduate scientists with expertise in the relevant fields of ecology and conservation. Belize currently lacks quality post-graduate training opportunities in ecology and conservation. The aim of the Fellowship is to provide one of our most promising Belizean graduates, Mr Gutierrez, with the necessary academic training overseas to develop and run independent ecological and conservation research on his return to the ERI at the University of Belize, and so to contribute to conservation initiatives at regional and national levels. The UoE have offered a place to Mr Gutierrez within the MSc in Conservation and Biodiversity Programme for the academic year 2012-13 at the Centre for Ecology and Conservation. The UoS Darwin project (#17-012) has given Mr Gutierrez a solid foundation in field skills (live trapping, camera-trapping, sign surveys, telemetry, vehicle maintenance) and exposure to the realities of applied practical conservation in Belize (socio-economics, politics, human-wildlife conflict, natural disasters). Post-graduate training in the MSc at UoE will complement this practical knowledge with formal development of skills in theoretical and quantitative aspects of ecology and conservation science. Upon return of the Fellow to Belize we expect that in addition to contributing substantially to the ERI wildlife program in general, he will be able to contribute to the post Darwin legacy in the maintenance of a viable wildlife corridor.

Objective 1 To train a Belizean wildlife field biologist in theoretical and quantitative aspects of ecology and conservation science

Objective 2 To give a Belizean wildlife field biologist the opportunity to study overseas at an institute of academic excellence where he will have access to a range of expert scientists and library resources, not available in Belize

Objective 3 To give a Belizean wildlife field biologist the opportunity to obtain a post-graduate degree in ecology and biodiversity conservation, as the first step in his academic career

Objective 4. Exposure to a wider variety of experts in the field of conservation and ecology.

Objective 5 Ultimately, to build capacity at the ERI by providing a Belizean with a post-graduate degree, who will be capable of initiating, developing and running independent research; training others and contributing to Belizean conservation network.

Mr Gutierrez's primary contact in the UK is Dr Patrick Doncaster, PI of the Darwin project #17-012, and Reader in Ecology at the Centre for Biological Sciences at the UoS. He will maintain regular contact with Mr Gutierrez who will send monthly updates to supplement any additional contacts, and he will host a visit to Southampton at least once during the stay, to broaden Mr Gutierrez' experience of the UK research environment. Support will also be provided by the Darwin project coordinators: Dr Bart Harmsen from the ERI at the University of Belize and the Director of the Belize Jaguar Program for Panthera, Dr Rebecca Foster; and by the Terrestrial Science Director of the ERI, Dr Elma Kay. This Darwin science team can advise and assist in project and module choices that will be most beneficial for future research work upon return of the Fellow to Belize. We will involve Said in the strategic planning and growth of the wildlife program. At the UoE, the MSc Course Director is Dr Bredan Godley, Associate Professor of Conservation Biology. The UoE assigns at least two academic advisors to all postgraduate students at the Centre for Ecology and Conservation. The first advisor is in the Director of the MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation Programme at UoE and the second advisor will be a member of the academic staff whom the Fellow will be working closely for his research project.

The MSc in Conservation and Biodiversity at UoE will provide vast knowledge and skills relevant to the conservation issues and biodiversity. Themes covered in the programme include patterns and threats to diversity, climate change ecology, farmland biodiversity, and international conservation policy and plant conservation among others. A point of interest is the Quantitative Biology course that offers a wide range of analysis and interpretation of ecological data which is essential for informed decision making in any conservation initiative especially in developing countries. In addition to theoretical and analytical skills the MSc programme at UoE will expose Mr. Gutierrez to global conservation issues related to the various conventions such as the CBD and CITES. The MSc programme will expose Mr Gutierrez to a wide network of contacts from biodiversity institutions from the UK and from around the world further strengthening his experience in biodiversity conservation in a growing global community.

**10. Legacy. Provide information on how the Darwin Fellow will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship on return to his/her home country. Will a strategy be developed during the Fellowship to ensure this is achieved? (200 words)**

On completion of his Fellowship, Mr Gutierrez will be one of a select few Belizeans who have a post-graduate degree in conservation biology. Add to this his extensive fieldwork experience and skills obtained during the Darwin Initiative's Large-mammal corridor project (wildlife capture and anaesthesia, telemetry, camera trapping, sign surveys), and it is clear that he will be a uniquely-trained individual within his country.

We anticipate that Mr Gutierrez will return to the ERI, where he will be able to

- 1) pass on his expertise, training students, interns and staff within the ERI's terrestrial science program
- 2) develop and implement terrestrial research relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development within Belize
- 3) communicate science and advocate biodiversity conservation with the Government and with the general public

To ensure that this is achieved, the ERI will remain in close contact with Said throughout the Fellowship period, to discuss his plans for an eventual return to the ERI. Mr Gutierrez will make use of the expertise and library resources available at UoE during his Fellowship to develop research plans to implement on his return to Belize. The ERI will seek funding to cover a salary on his return.

**11. How will the Fellowship assist the Fellow's organisation and/or local communities and/or home country in working towards the objectives (or implementation) of the CBD/CITES/CMS? Please refer to specific Articles or cross cutting themes as appropriate. (200 words)**

The ERI was created primarily to address the large gap in local capacity for research and monitoring that exists within Belize. The Fellowship will enhance the capacity of the ERI in line with Article 7 and Article 12 of the CBD referring to "the Identification of components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use and monitor, through sampling and other techniques, the components of biological diversity identified" and "Promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries" respectively. The ERI is focused on producing results that are directly relevant and applicable to the sustainable management of Belize's natural resources with special attention to "strengthening national capacity by means of human resource development" (Article 18 CBD). Having a qualified person in Conservation and Biodiversity will greatly increase the quality and effectiveness of the work being undertaken at the ERI and the University of Belize as a wider institution. The ERI will be able to "Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings" (Article 8 CBD), through the cross cutting themes of Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Approach.

**12. What collaboration has there been with the Darwin Fellow to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Fellowship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Fellow within his/her own country. (200 words)**

Mr Gutierrez has been involved in the development of the proposal since its inception. Mr Gutierrez and the Darwin Initiative project (#17-012) coordinators reviewed and discussed alternative post-graduate degree programmes, and unanimously agreed that the MSc in Conservation & Biodiversity at UoE best-fitted our aim of securing post-graduate training in ecology and conservation for a Belizean field biologist. Dr Brendan Godley, Director of the MSc in Conservation & Biodiversity at UoE, has given his full support for the UoS to apply for Darwin Fellowship.

If successful in obtaining a Darwin Fellowship to cover the cost of this post-graduate training, Mr Gutierrez will travel to England and study at UoE for one year. During this period he will remain in contact with Dr Doncaster at UoS, and Dr Harmsen, Dr Foster and Dr Kay at the ERI in Belize, to continue collaborating on analysis of telemetry data and manuscript preparation, to provide regular progress reports, and, towards the end of the Fellowship, to begin planning a research program that Mr Gutierrez will implement on his return to the ERI.

**13. Where will the Darwin Fellow be based? Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location). (200 words)**

Mr Gutierrez will be based in the Cornwall Campus of the University of Exeter, at Penryn near Falmouth, throughout the MSc course (1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 through to the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013). The UoE offers a guarantee of accommodation to international students at the Glasney Student Village at the Cornwall Campus. Here the Fellow will have a standard room in a flat shared with other students from the UoE. The Student Village is minutes away from academic and social buildings on Campus. On successful completion of the MSc course, Said will return to the ERI at the University of Belize, and, if funding allows, take up a research post.

**14. Provide a programme of work, including key milestones, through the duration of the Fellowship**

Activity	Duration	2012/13									2013/2014					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Arrival in the UK (welcome for new students)				X												
Key Skills (BIOM 4005)					X											
Ecological Census Techniques (BIOM 4021)						X										
Approaches in Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology (BIOM 4018)							X									
Africa Field Course (BIOM 4015)								X								
Quantitative Biology (BIOM 4010)									X							
Research Project (BIOM 4009)										X	X	X	X	X	X	
Programme Culmination																X
Interim Darwin Fellowship Report									X							
Final Darwin Fellowship Report																X

**15. Financial Aspects. Please use UK Government Financial Years ie April 2012 – March 2013 etc)**

<b>Fellow payment</b>			
	12/13	13/14	2012/13   2013/14
London: £1200/month	Number of months		
UK (outside London): £1000/month	Number of months		12
Overseas location £ /month*	Number of months		
<b>Host Organisations' costs</b>			
UK: £300/month	Number of months		
Overseas location: £ /month*	Number of months		
<b>A. Total Fellow &amp; Host Organisation Costs</b>			

<b>Actual travel costs (Return journey to Fellowship location)</b>	
Return airfare. <i>Details</i> one flexible ticket between Belize City and London Heathrow	
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> National Express bus ticket	
Visas etc. <i>Details</i>	
<b>B. Total Fellowship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2,000 will be paid)</b>	

<b>Actual travel costs 'Additional Travel'</b>	
<b>Maximum £500 within country of Fellowship location, £1,500 for international travel.</b>	
<b>Specify purpose:</b>	
Travel to Southampton	
Airfares <i>Details</i>	
Subsistence <i>Details (including number of days)</i> 2	
<i>Contact the Darwin Applications Unit for rates</i>	
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> travel to Southampton	
Visas etc. <i>Details</i>	
<b>C. Total (Other travel) costs</b>	

<b>D. ACADEMIC FEES</b>	
<i>Academic fees for the MSc in Conservation and Biodiversity includes tuition and all relevant field trips to be taken for the duration of the Programme.</i>	

<b>TOTAL FELLOWSHIP COSTS (A + B + C + D)</b>	
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\* Figures available from the Darwin Applications Unit Tel: 0131 440 5181



16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts

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**FCO NOTIFICATION**

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise details of the Darwin Fellowship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Fellow's home country

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

Enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support as requested in the Guidance Notes. Our most recent audited accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at *(delete as appropriate)*:

Name (block capitals)	KAREN L MAXWELL
Position in the organisation	DEPUTY FACULTY FINANCE MANAGER

Signed

Karen L Maxwell
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Date:

26/1/12
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Name of proposed Fellow

Mr Said Gutierrez

Signature page sent 26/01/2012

## Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship?	✓
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	✓
Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	✓
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	✓
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? <b>(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)</b>	✓
Have you included a 1 page CV for the proposed Fellow and the UK experts listed in Section 5?	✓
Have you provided the relevant letters of support?	✓
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? <b>An electronic link to a website is acceptable.</b>	✓
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	✓
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	✓

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT on **Monday 30 January 2012** to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the name of the proposed Fellow as the subject of your email. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). In addition, a hard copy of the wet signature page should be submitted to the Darwin Applications Management Unit, LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL postmarked not later than **Tuesday 31 January 2012**.

**DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998:** Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites(details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.