

Sri Lanka



Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Fall Intersession • August 1-15, 2012

Program Name:

Intersection of Agriculture & Wildlife in Sri Lanka (Human-Elephant Conflict)

Course Numbers & Names:

AGR 399 Special Topics
AGS 712 Special Topics
IDS 397 International Culture
and Study Abroad

Credit Hours: **3** (undergraduate or graduate)

Course Overview & Highlights:

The island nation of Sri Lanka is emerging from a protracted civil war to become one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Agricultural development has brought more people into the traditional habitat of wild Asian elephants, creating conflict between the two species and endangering the elephants' survival.

This program enables students to study firsthand the various initiatives aimed at solving Human-Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka and, by extension, to explore the broader issues involved in balancing human activities with wildlife preservation. Students will have the opportunity to:

- Observe elephants in Minneriya National Park and Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage
- Visit the Ringling Bros. Center for Asian Elephant Research at Rajarata University and meet with local experts
- Tour significant historic and religious sites, and gain insight into the ancient symbolism and traditional role of the elephant in Sri Lankan culture

Estimated Cost: **\$3,000**

Includes: Round-trip airfare from Springfield; ground transportation in Sri Lanka; hotel (double occupancy); most meals (breakfasts, lunches and four dinners in Sri Lanka); admission fees to national parks and temples; Study Away student fee. Separated costs not available.

Excludes: MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit (at the Missouri Resident per-credit-hour tuition rate); passport & visa fees; transportation to & from Springfield airport; gratuities; personal expenses.

Application due by May 11, 2012; a **\$450 non-refundable deposit** will be billed to your student account.

\$2,000 airfare will be billed **June 8, 2012.**

\$550 balance will be billed **July 13, 2012.** The entire program fee must be paid by July 23, 2012 in order for students to participate.

Voucher Eligibility & Financial Aid

If you entered MSU as a freshman in 2009 or 2010, you may use the **Study Away \$500 voucher.** Students who receive financial aid through MSU may apply that aid to the program, if eligible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at **836-5262** for more information.



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Informational Meeting(s): TBA

Pre-travel Class Meetings:
**Mon., July 30 &
Tues., July 31, 2012**
(times & locations TBA)

Depart Springfield for Colombo, Sri Lanka:
Wed., Aug. 1, 2012

Depart Colombo for Springfield:
Tues., Aug. 14, 2012
(Arrive Wed., Aug. 15)

Interested in going?

Contact the Program Director,
Dr. Dennis Schmitt, DVM, PhD, DACT,
Professor of Reproductive Biology,
William H. Darr School of Agriculture
Office: 417-836-5091 / Cell: 417-861-9572
DennisSchmitt@MissouriState.edu

Study Away!

Missouri State University Study Away Programs

Jim D. Morris Center for Continuing Education, Suite 403
301 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806
P: 417-836-6368 • E: studyaway@missouristate.edu
W: <http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/>

Course Objectives

It is estimated that about 60 people and 200 elephants die each year in Sri Lanka as a result of Human-Elephant Conflict. Understanding how human activities impact wildlife, and vice versa, is essential to the survival and success of both species.

This intensive two-week course includes 25 hours of laboratory contact, plus 20 hours of lectures by Dr. Schmitt, Professor of Animal Sciences at MSU's Darr School of Agriculture, and local experts in Sri Lanka. Through this program, students will have the opportunity to:

1. Identify historical, social and cultural events that shaped Sri Lankan national identity and culture related to agriculture and wildlife
2. Recognize the current roles of agriculture and elephants in Sri Lankan culture and their influence on cultural products such as art, letters and folklore
3. Gain an understanding of current events and key issues and concerns surrounding Human-Elephant Conflict and the agricultural community in Sri Lankan society

Course Schedule & Itinerary

PRE-TRAVEL CLASS MEETINGS

The class will meet for two 2-hour sessions (times and locations TBA) for lectures and discussions led by Dr. Schmitt:

Mon., July 30, 2012: A review of Sri Lanka's history as an independent nation, then as a colony of world powers; establishment of the modern republic of Sri Lanka in 1948 and the recent 26-year civil war

Tues., July 31: Sri Lankan geography, agricultural zones and wildlife; elephants as a cultural icon

STUDY TOUR IN SRI LANKA

Wed., Aug. 1 - Sat., Aug. 4: Travel from Springfield to Colombo, Sri Lanka, then on to Kandy in the central part of the country

Sun., Aug. 5 - Tues., Aug. 7: Visit Temple of the Tooth, a Buddhist shrine and UNESCO world heritage site; Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage (PEO); and Peradeniya University Dept. of Zoology. Lectures by Dr. Rajah, Senior Veterinarian, National Zoo at PEO, and by Dr. Charles Santiapillai, Emeritus Professor, on wildlife in Sri Lanka

Wed., Aug. 8 - Mon., Aug. 13: Travel to Minneriya National Park, Rajarata University, Ringling Bros. Center for Asian Elephant Research, Dept. of Wildlife



Training Center and local villages affected by Human-Elephant Conflict. Lectures by Dr. Santiapillai and Dr. Mohan of Rajarata University, as well as other University professors and Dept. of Wildlife officers

Tues., Aug. 14: Return to Colombo for trip home; arrive in Springfield **Wed., Aug. 15.**

POST-TRAVEL CLASS MEETING

Fri., Aug. 17 (time and location TBA): Debriefing/discussion; reflection journals due

Fri. Sept. 28: Graduate students' position papers due

Course Credit & Requirements

Upon successful completion of this program, students will receive 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit.

Assessment of learning - Students will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Journal:** All students will be required to keep a daily reflection journal while in Sri Lanka. Journal entries should include the influence of each day's activities as they relate to the course objectives. Grading will be based equally on content and organization of material.
- **Position Paper:** Graduate students will submit a minimum 15-page position paper on the current status of, and potential solutions to, Human-Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka.

Required text: Gavin Thomas, *The Rough Guide to Sri Lanka* (Rough Guides, Ltd., 2009) ISBN: 9781848360693

Application & Payment Procedures

This program is open to students of any academic major, as well as to interested members of the community. There are no prerequisites, other than approval by the Program Director. Instructions are included on the program application.

A **non-refundable deposit of \$450** will be billed to your student account upon application (due by **May 11, 2012**). Airfare (**\$2,000**) will be billed on **June 8, 2012**, and the balance of program costs (**\$550**) will be billed to your account on **July 13, 2012**. The entire program fee must be paid by **July 23, 2012** in order for students to participate.

The published program cost is based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change.

Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% in the program fee if costs increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies:

- Students who withdraw prior to **July 2, 2012** will receive a refund of fees paid, less the deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf, including airfare if already ticketed.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after **July 2, 2012** for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after **July 2, 2012** or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Directors and to Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. **Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.**
- Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must also be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.
- The program may be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 8 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund.