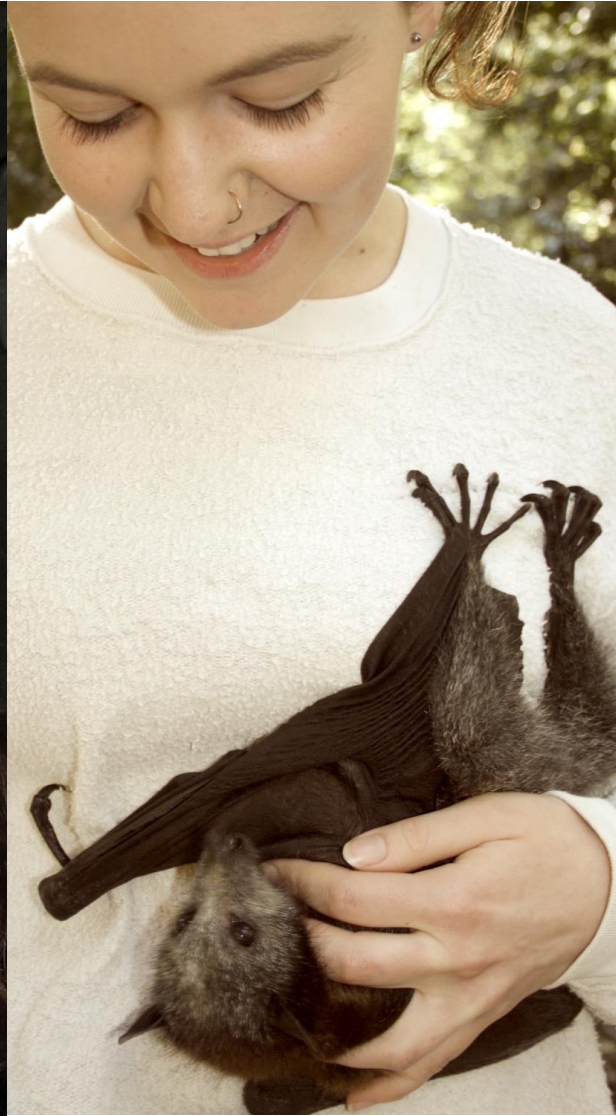
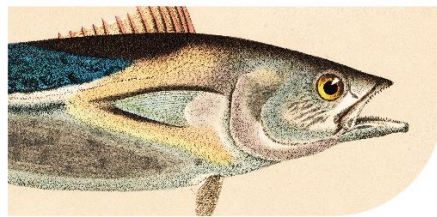


A Career in Conservation





Phoebe Griffith
Conservation Scientist, PhD Student



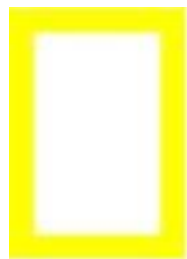
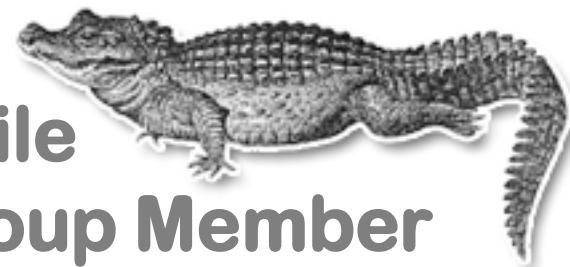
Department of
BIOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

ZSL | **LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE**

**IUCN Crocodile
Specialist Group Member**



**National Geographic
Explorer**

What do I do?

- I research the conservation of the gharial crocodylian in Nepal
- I project manage conservation and research programme working with my collaborators and colleagues in Nepal and India
- Final year of a PhD on gharial and crocodylian conservation





Mugger Crocodile

Gharial











**Who is a
Conservationist?**

Researchers

Who is a Conservationist?

Marine Biologists

Vets

Ecologists

Zoologists

Veterinary
Technicians

Anthropologists

Zookeepers

Botanists

Social

Research
Assistant

Veterinary
Nurses

Scientists

Horticulturalists

Wildlife
Rehabilitators

Rangers

Teachers and
Educators

Conservationist?

Field
Technicians

Activists

Fundraisers

Protected Area
Managers

Volunteers

Project
Managers

Community Anti-Poaching Units

My Career Pathway

Undergraduate in
Biological Science @
University of Oxford

Internship with
Smithsonian Tropical
Research Institute





My Career Pathway

**MSc in Wild Animal
Biology @ Royal
Veterinary College & ZSL**

**Research Project Flying
Foxes in Australia**

**Volunteered every
weekend at London Zoo**



My Career Pathway

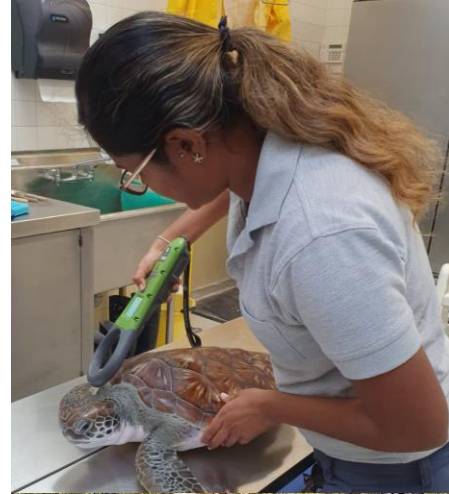
**PhD (DPhil) in Oxford University Biology Department
and ZSL Institute of Zoology**

Why a PhD?

- **Opportunity to design research collaboratively with conservationists in Nepal and India**
- **Work directly with crocodylians**
- **Lots of fieldwork and problem solving**

Possible Career Pathways in Conservation

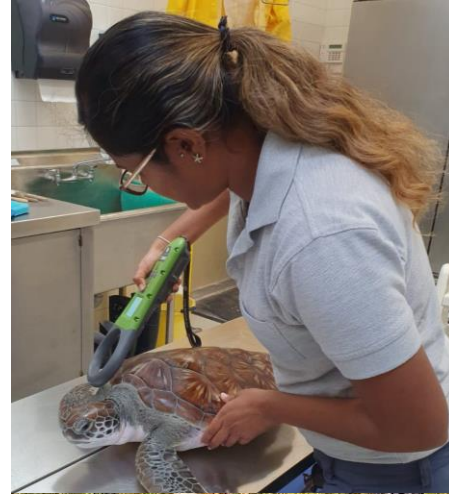
- PhD Students in Zoology, Conservation Science and Marine Biology
- Wildlife Veterinarian
- Project Manager
- Zookeeper and MSc Researcher
- Post-Doctoral Researcher



A range of different post-school routes:

Undergraduate in:

- Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Science
- Wildlife Biology
- Marine Biology
- Veterinary Science
- Sociology



A range of different post-school routes:

College Course:

- Animal Management
- Fisheries Management

Direct employment in conservation (e.g. NGOs)

Transfer to conservation from another specialism (e.g. engineering, tech)

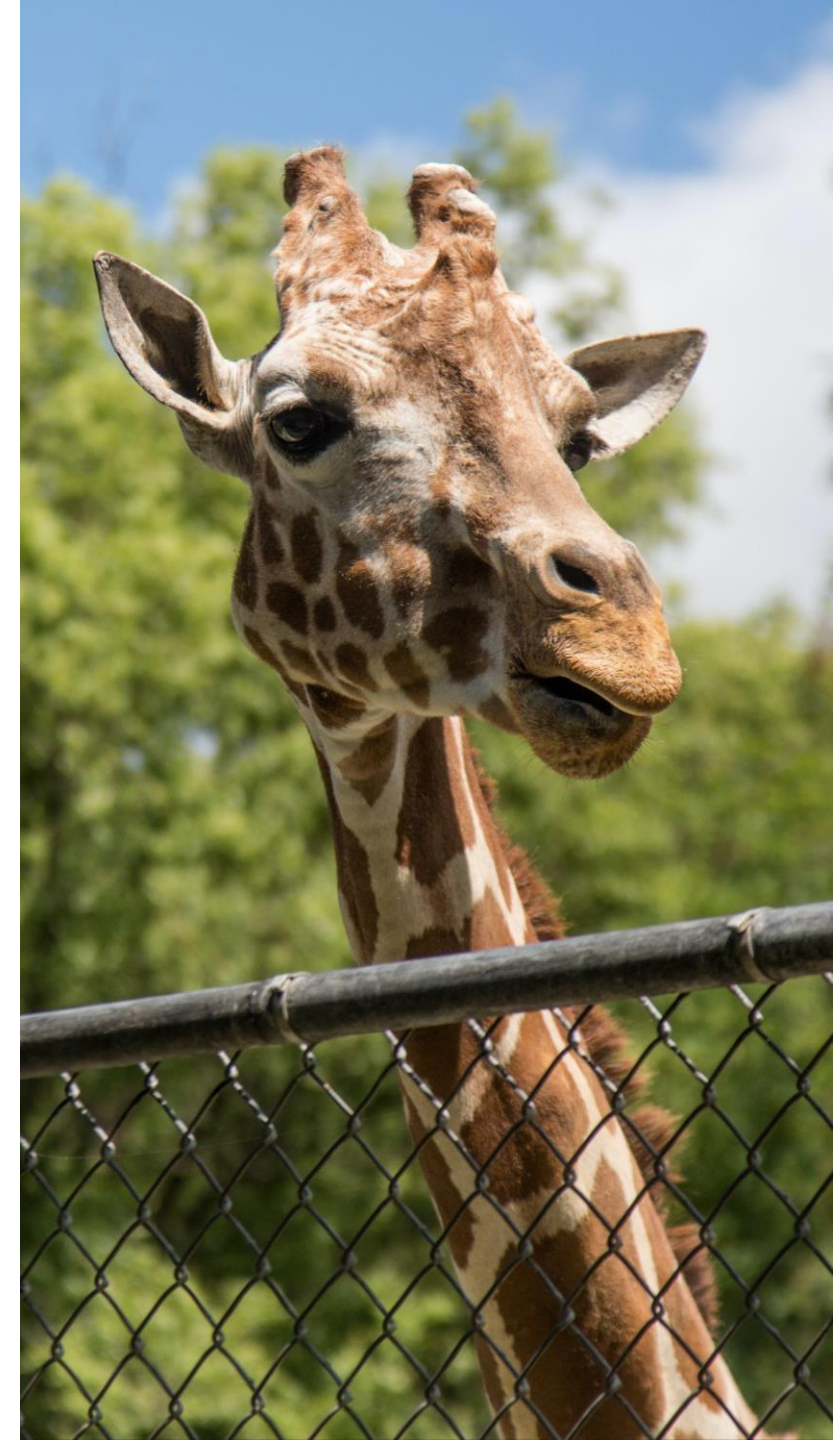


Qualifications and Experience

MSc is often helpful but not always necessary... depends on job requirements

Experience is key (but not always in exactly what you want to do!)

- e.g.
 - voluntary work with zoos
 - work with animals (e.g. shelters, farm work)
 - work in wildlife and wild area management
 - paid internships in the UK and overseas



Qualifications and Experience

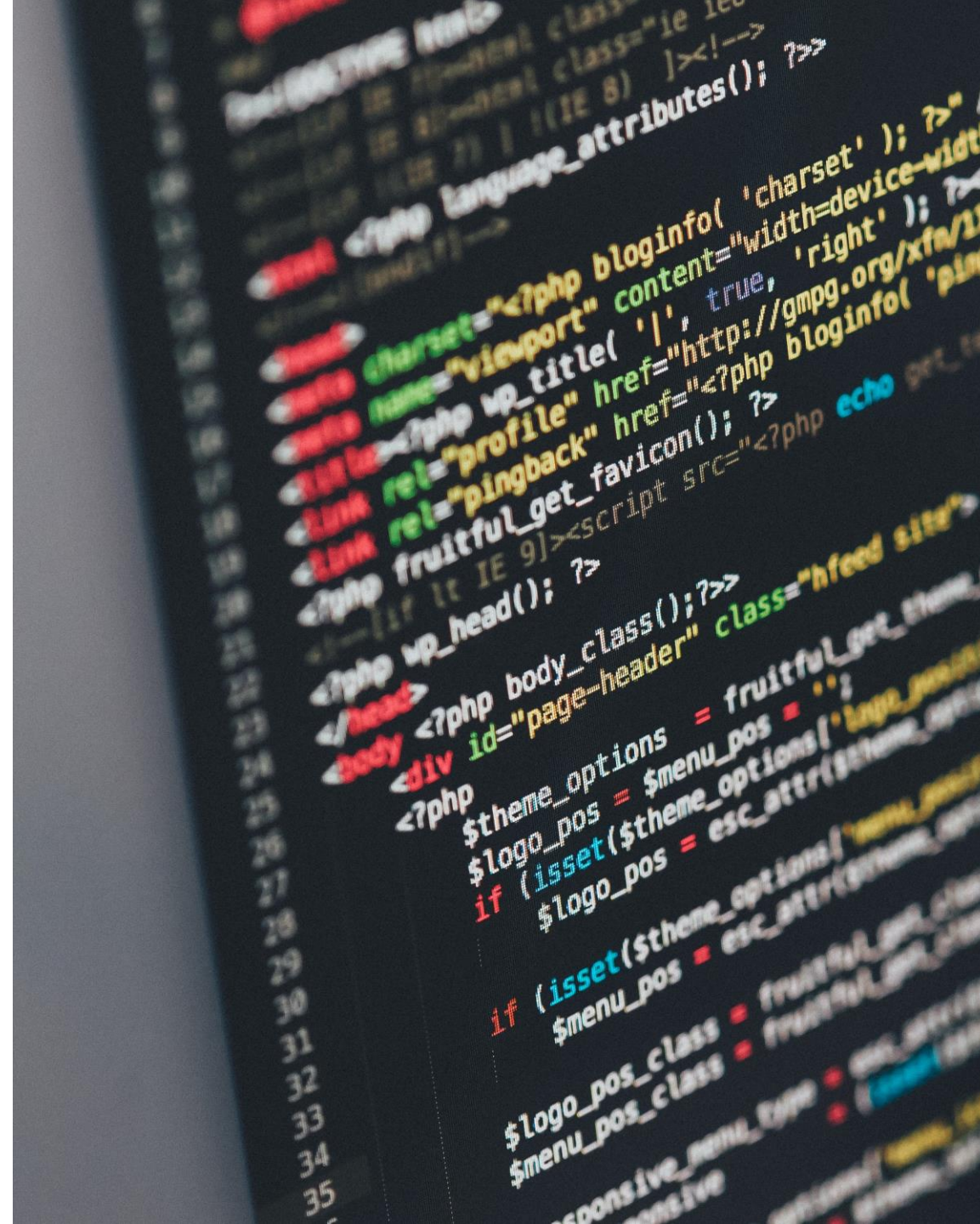
Where to find experience?

- contact people! Almost all of my experience came from emailing people I found online
- contact people whose career you like the look of, and ask how they got there

Getting that initial experience can be challenging: apply for lots of different roles and don't worry when you don't even hear back

Skills required?

- Statistics
- Coding/modelling
- Animal husbandry/management
(depending on specialization)
- Ability to write grant applications...
- Clear communication of your
research and science



Skills required?

- Teamwork
- Flexibility (everything changes all the time!)
- Willingness to recognize that the views of every stakeholder are important and science is just one part of conservation
- Problem solving
- Willingness to ask for help (a lot)
- Willingness to listen and learn from others



Why a career in conservation?

Get to work with some of the most amazing people working to save wildlife

Opportunities for international and interdisciplinary collaboration (and often to work overseas!)

Hugely varied... and always challenging





Questions?