

MALAYSIA

Tropical Field Ecology and Museum Collections



chatham
ABROAD

The world is calling.

Summer 2025

LOCATION

This course will take place in Danum Valley Field Centre, part of Danum Valley Conservation Area, in Malaysian Borneo. This 438 km² reserve is home to 130 million year old rainforest and the tallest tropical trees in the world. Danum Valley's core area is one of the best examples of primary lowland dipterocarp forest and boasts rich communities of flora and fauna with many species endemic to Borneo. With long-established research projects and almost no human impacts, Danum Valley is the ideal location to spot some of Borneo's most iconic animals in their natural environment, including flying frogs, pit vipers, hornbills, gibbons, and orangutans.

COURSE WORK AND HIGHLIGHTS

The greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide is habitat loss, and the largest driver of deforestation in Southeast Asia and other tropical regions is expansion of oil palm plantations. Thus, knowledge of Bornean biodiversity and its threats is crucial for conservation and sustainability. Natural history museum collections provide invaluable documentation of life on earth and are essential to our understanding of long-term anthropogenic changes such as habitat loss and climate change. This course will introduce students to ecological survey methods and specimen preparation in a region of high biodiversity as well as high habitat loss. Students will learn Southeast Asian natural history, tropical ecology field skills, and scientific specimen preparation methods. Students will need to bring binoculars, headlamp, and field clothing.

HOUSING

Students will stay in the hostel at Danum Valley Field Center. Note that Malaysia does not provide gender-neutral accommodation.

PREREQUISITE

None, permission of the instructor.

ELIGIBILITY

Chatham undergraduate students must have good academic standing and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher at the time of application and at the commencement of spring 2025 term. Students must have completed at least 30 undergraduate credits at the time of travel, including at least 15 credits completed at Chatham at the time of travel.

Students must have good judicial standing (to be verified by Office of Student Affairs) and good financial standing at Chatham (to be verified by Student Accounts).

Students must be current Chatham students at the time of the field experience to participate.



MALAYSIA: SUMMER 2025

TENTATIVE DATES May 2-16, 2025 (April 30-May 1 on campus)

PROGRAM FEE \$4,214

Includes roundtrip airfare, in-country transportation, housing in hotels with double occupancy or larger groups, cultural immersion activities as part of the field experience itinerary, travel insurance, three meals per day in the field. Accepted students must submit a \$1,000 deposit by November 22, 2024, and pay their balance by May 15, 2025.

Students are responsible for the cost of obtaining a valid passport, any visas (as necessary), any meals that are not included as part of the program fee and any entry fees, excursions or other costs incurred by the student during free time on the program.

TUITION AND COLLEGE FEES 3 credits summer tuition: \$1,533

Chatham undergraduate students may be eligible for a \$1,200 study abroad voucher. Students must meet eligibility requirements. See application at chatham.abroadoffice.net for details.

APPLICATION DEADLINE October 23, 2024

MINIMUM ENROLLMENT 16 students. Each field experience is self-supporting and must meet its minimum enrollment number or it will be cancelled.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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