



Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

(An institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India)

Anaikatty Post, Coimbatore – 641 108, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

EPABX: +91-422-2203 100, 109 | FAX: +91-422-2657088

Email: dir-sacon@gov.in, salimalicentre@gmail.com | Website: www.sacon.in

Call for admission to M.Sc. WILDLIFE SCIENCE (Ornithology) course at SACON

(In collaboration with Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur)

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), an Institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, was established at Anaikatty near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu in 1990. SACON's mission is to help conserve India's biodiversity and its sustainable use through research, education, and people's participation with birds at the centre stage. SACON conducts research and training focusing on ornithology and covering all aspects of biodiversity and natural history. SACON has a vibrant academic infrastructure in place, and the Institute has undertaken over 340 research projects and environmental impact assessments during the last 30 years, and produced over 70 PhD scholars in ornithology and wildlife ecology.

In fulfillment of one of its core mandates, SACON is set to start a new Post-Graduate programme [**M.Sc. Wildlife Science (Ornithology)**], first of its kind in South Asia from the academic year 2022-23, and invites applications for admission to the M.Sc. programme. The course aims to impart state-of-the-art education and training in Wildlife Science with specialization in ornithology, covering all aspects of wildlife biology, ecology, conservation science and policy, and to produce a highly qualified and motivated league of young wildlife scientists and ornithologists who will bring professionalism to wildlife conservation and management in India. The two-year, fully residential course, is in academic collaboration with **Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN)**, Thiruvavur, Tamil Nadu, which will award the degree. The M.Sc. course is expected to commence in August 2022 and will comprise four semesters, the last one earmarked for dissertation. The teaching faculty will include, besides SACON's own pool of eminent scientists, India's leading wildlife biologists, ecologists, conservationists, and policy makers.

Total Strength

The course will admit 12 students per batch. Following the Government of India norms on reservation, these 12 seats will be apportioned among different categories of qualifying candidates as follows: General-5, SC-2, ST-1, OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)-3, and EWS-1.

Course Fee

The Course Fee for the entire programme is Rs. 4,80,000/- (tentative only) that includes tuition fees, library and laboratory fees, dissertation fees, admin fees, and hostel accommodation fees. SACON will offer MoEFCC Scholarship, covering the entire Course Fee and a Monthly Stipend, to six top meritorious candidates from the final rank list. These six Scholarships will be distributed among different categories of top-ranking candidates as follows: General-2, SC-1, ST-1, OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)-1, and EWS-1. The remaining six candidates, selected in the final rank list, will be treated as self-sponsored students, who will be required to pay the Course Fee in four equal installments at the beginning of each semester. SACON will, however, attempt to secure either full or partial scholarship from potential donor agencies for self-sponsored students, contingent upon availability.

Eligibility

- a) The course is open ONLY to students of Indian Nationality.
- b) Candidates should have completed minimum of 15 years of formal education (10+2+3 or 11+2+2).
- c) Candidates should possess a Bachelor's degree in **any Science** (Biology/Life sciences, Physical/Chemical sciences, Mathematical sciences, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Veterinary science, Medicine, Pharmacy, or Computer science) or in **Engineering / Technology** or a degree recognized as equivalent thereof.
- d) Candidates should have the minimum qualifying mark of 55 per cent in aggregate at the Bachelor's level; candidates belonging to SC/ST category will be required to possess a minimum of 45 per cent in aggregate.
- e) Candidates awaiting final results or appearing for the final examinations in their Bachelor's degree may also apply; however, if selected, they will be required to furnish provisional degree certificate/final pass certificate at the time of joining the course, failing which their admission will be cancelled.
- f) The age limit is 25 years as on 1 July, 2022 with 5 years relaxation for SC/ST and 3 years relaxation for OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) candidates as per Government of India norms.

- g) Candidates, who wish to avail concessions/provisions under the reservation policy, should submit requisite certificate issued by a Competent Authority as authorized by Government of India rules pertaining to reservation in admission/employment. They will also be required to submit a self-undertaking in support of their claim at the time of interview, if selected.
- h) Candidates with Bachelor's Degree from universities outside India should obtain certificates of equivalence from the Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities, AIU House, 16, Kotla Marg, New Delhi – 110 002 (Website: <http://www.aiu.ac.in/index.asp>). However, the decision of the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) shall be final with regard to validity of the equivalence certificate and eligibility of the candidate.

Selection Procedure

- a) Candidates, with eligibility as outlined above, will be required to appear for **Common University Entrance Test-PG (CUET-PG)** to be conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) of Ministry of Education, Government of India. CUET-PG is a Computer-based Test comprising 100 Multiple Choice Questions, which are divided into two parts: **Part A** (Language Comprehension/Verbal Ability, General Awareness, Mathematical/Quantitative ability and Analytical Skills) with 25 MCQ questions, and **Part B** (Domain Knowledge) with 75 MCQ questions. Part B will test the domain knowledge of candidates in biology/life sciences and environmental studies at undergraduate level. Duration of the computer-based test will be 120 minutes. Each right answer will carry 4 marks, while wrong answers will attract a penalty of 1 mark each. Please refer to NTA website <https://cuet.nta.nic.in/information-bulletin/> for further information on CUET-PG.
- b) Based on the CUET-PG score, candidates will be shortlisted for the interview-based Personality Test to be conducted at SACON, Coimbatore. The final selection list for admission to the course, in different categories, will be based on the performance and aptitude of the candidates to be assessed in the Interview-cum-Personality Test.
- c) Selected candidates will be required to confirm their joining the course within ten days of publication of the final selection list, failing which the waitlisted candidates in appropriate categories will be offered the seat.
- d) The final selection will, however, be deemed provisional and confirmation of candidature will be subject to verification of eligibility certificates and acceptance of the same by Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN).

How to Apply?

Interested candidates are directed to refer to the NTA website <https://cuet.nta.nic.in/> for applying online to the CUET-PG 2022 and <https://cuet.nta.nic.in/information-bulletin/> for detailed information brochure along with guidelines. Serial number for M.Sc. Wildlife Science (Ornithology) in the CUET-PG Information Bulletin Appendix-VII is 375 and Test Paper Code is PGQP22. The online application portal will be open until 18.06.2022.

Important Dates

Online submission of Application Form	19.05.2022 to 18.06.2022 (up to 11:50 PM)
Last date for successful transaction of online fee payment	19.06.2022 (up to 11:50 PM)
Correction to be made in Application Form online	20.06.2022 to 22.06.2022
Downloading of Admit Card	Will be announced later on NTA website
Date of CUET-PG examination	Will be announced later on NTA website
Date of publication of CUET-PG results	Will be announced later on NTA website
Date of Interview-cum-Personality Test at SACON	Will be intimated to shortlisted candidates by SACON

Contact Us

If you need any further information or clarification, please contact us at the following numbers or email addresses during working days between 10:00 hrs and 16:00 hrs.

Dr. Rajah Jayapal Course Director-PG Programme Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) Anaikatty Post, Coimbatore – 641 108 Tamil Nadu Tel.: +91-422-2203 105 Email: rajahjp.70@gov.in , rajah.jp@gmail.com	Dr. S. Babu Assistant Course Director-PG Programme Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) Anaikatty Post, Coimbatore – 641 108 Tamil Nadu Tel.: +91-422-2203 137 Email: babus.80@gov.in , sanbabs@gmail.com
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