

DPLR2\1017

Increasing Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education

Immersive learning experiences at CCMI provide students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with nature, witness biodiversity, and participate in active research. These opportunities, however, are often financially out of reach for the average household in the Cayman Islands. This project will offer fully funded placements for local students to participate in a week-long introductory marine biology and conservation course. This project will train the next generation of ocean stewards, building capacity for future careers in science and conservation.

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Increasing Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Increasing Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (**Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary**)

Organisation

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Gretchen
Surname	Goodbody Gringley
Organisation	Central Caribbean Marine Institute
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Victoria
Surname	Mann
Organisation	Central Caribbean Marine Institute
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Central Caribbean Marine Institute
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

Cayman Islands

*** if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:**

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

No

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and provide a summary of their roles.

Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1): Victoria Mann

Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1): Central Caribbean Marine Institute

Lead Partner Website (if applicable): www.reefresearch.org

Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?

Yes

List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):

NA





Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:

CCMI will organize the field course, recruit participants, distribute awards, execute the field course, compile participant surveys, and write reports. Lead applicant, GGG, will be responsible for project oversight, managing the financial aspects of the project, and report writing. Project leader, Victoria Mann, will be responsible for planning, recruitment, and execution of the course with the help of the Education Assistant and an intern. CCMI's communications team will be responsible for delivering all programme outreach and assisting with the final report.

I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:

Checked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

 [DPLUSLocal R2 CoverLetter CCMI](#)
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Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

Immersive learning experiences at CCMI provide students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with nature, witness biodiversity, and participate in active research. These opportunities, however, are often financially out of reach for the average household in the Cayman Islands. This project will offer fully funded placements for local students to participate in a week-long introductory marine biology and conservation course. This project will train the next generation of ocean stewards, building capacity for future careers in science and conservation.

Q6a. Description (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

Coral reefs have global ecological, structural, social, and economic importance that is disproportionately large relative to their areal extent. They are a fundamental component of marine ecosystems and a major locus of global biodiversity. Tropical corals are responsible for the formation of islands and atolls inhabited by thousands of people, and barrier reefs that protect the coasts from erosion, sea waves and tsunamis. They also provide goods and services such as seafood, recreational activities, coastal protection, and cultural benefits and sustain one of the most important economic forces: tourism. However, coral reefs are increasingly threatened by local and global impacts, including pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Yet, there remains a lack of awareness of the oceans and coral reefs in many island nations, and thus local communities are often disconnected from one their most important natural resources. When local communities understand the importance of their environment, they are more likely to gain a sense of ownership and strive to protect it. Our goal is to expose and teach the next generation of Caymanian youth to the marine environment, thereby creating future ocean stewards that will protect the oceans and its biodiversity.

To achieve this goal, we propose hosting a week-long immersive educational program for local Caymanian youth aged 14 – 17 at CCMI's Little Cayman Research Centre. The course will include general background information about the ocean, biodiversity, and current threats to the environment. It will also include daily activities in the lab or on the ocean, such as snorkelling to learn fish and coral identification, beach clean ups, invasive species monitoring, and coral restoration techniques. For some students this is their first true interaction with the ocean, providing a life-changing experience.

This camp is traditionally run in the summer as a paid programme, with a handful of scholarships offered. We have successfully run the camp for 10+ years, with excellent results and extremely positive reviews. However, the camp is not financially feasible for the average Caymanian student. The 2023 summer camp received over 30 scholarship applications, but funding was only available to support 5 of them. Thus, there is a clear need and desire by the local youth to participate in this type of programme and this project would give them that opportunity.

In addition to the course fee, camp participants are asked to provide their own snorkel gear, including mask, fins, snorkel, and an optional underwater camera. While CCMI has a small assortment of donated snorkel gear to lend to our scholarship students, they are heavily worn and often mismatched, resulting in a less fulfilling underwater experience, and serving to strengthen feelings of social inequity. As such we are also proposing to increase the amount of snorkel gear available at CCMI so that each participant has snorkel gear, and each buddy pair has access to an underwater camera.

Success of the project will be gauged in 2 ways. First, the number of applications for camp will be our first indicator of success. Second, we will use pre and post surveys given to the participants prior to arrival and again before departing. These surveys will help us to understand how the camp has changed their perspective and views of the ocean, any changes in their lifestyle that they hope to achieve after attending the camp, and how the camp may impact their future and career. This information will contribute to a short video that will be used to promote the programme and recruit future participants.

Q6b. Long-term sustainability (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

Please describe the long-term benefits of the project and the change it will bring about. How will the outcomes of the project be sustained after the funding is finished?

In the short term, the snorkel gear acquired with this project will increase our capacity to support additional scholarship students. In the long term, although this is a short programme, the benefits will be long-lasting as they will impact the mindset of the local youth. These youth may go on to become key decision makers or pillars in the community, and having spent this time immersed in the ocean and learning about the importance of the marine environment will have a lasting impression. CCMI will continue to strive to find other funding opportunities to increase scholarship support for our courses. Completion of this project and creation of the short video, will serve as evidence to the success and importance of these types of programs that will be leveraged when seeking future support.

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

No Response

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project contributes to:

Checked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
Unchecked	Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Unchecked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment
Checked	Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Please justify your selection. Please use quantitative information where possible here.

The main contribution of the project is through community engagement and improved awareness through direct interaction and teaching of local youth at an immersive camp experience. This will support the protection of biodiversity in both the short and long term, as education of the youth will lead to environmental advocacy and future ocean stewards.





Section 6 - Workplan

Q8. Workplan (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the **Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan** (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply>) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). **Please note that your project must be completed by 31 March 2024.**

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 October 2023	31 March 2024	6 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan with your proposed project activities here

 [R2-DPlus-Local-Project-Workplan-FINAL](#)
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Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:		
Consultancy costs:		

Overhead costs:	
Travel & subsistence costs:	
Operating costs:	
Capital equipment:	
Other Costs	
Total:	38,657.00

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

Gretchen Goodbody-Gringley: salary support for 1 week time commitment towards project oversight and report submission (£ [REDACTED])
Victoria Mann: salary support for 1 month to organize, recruit, and execute the course, and write the final report (£ [REDACTED])
Education intern (TBD): stipend support for 1 month to assist the education team (£ [REDACTED])

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Overhead is calculated at [REDACTED] of the total direct project costs.

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

One international flight for the education intern: £ [REDACTED]
Domestic flights for the intern and the 14 course participants from Grand Cayman to Little Cayman: £ [REDACTED]
Accommodation at CCMI for 14 course participants, including food: £ [REDACTED]
Housing at CCMI for the education intern: £ [REDACTED]

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Course materials and supplies, including: 14 sets of mask, snorkel, and fins; and 5 GoPro10 cameras. Total cost: £ [REDACTED]
Shipping and duty of supplies estimated at 24% of supplies costs: £ [REDACTED]
Boat fees for 5 full days of boat use: £ [REDACTED]

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

NA

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

NA

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

Communications and outreach costs to disseminate of camp details, update CCMI website and social media, and create and distribute of final video product: £ [REDACTED]

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
USD	0.81	bank of america	03 June 2023

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs? 96

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

No Response

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities





Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.





This grant will build local capacity, linking to the U.K.'s Blue Belt Programme, the current Cayman Islands Climate Change Policy consultation and the U.K.'s commitment to protecting biodiversity in the UKOTS. Building local knowledge is crucial for the United Nations' (U.N.) 2030 30% marine protection goals and 2030 net zero goals (which are far from being achieved in the Cayman Islands), as well as longer-term commitment to the U.N. sustainable development goal SDG 14 (life under water). There is also limited opportunity for students to undertake immersive training experiences in the Cayman Islands, so this programme also contributes to SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 13 (climate action).

Will the project take place on Government owned land or water or involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?

Yes

Please attach evidence that you have Government support for this project i.e. a Letter of Support. Applications which indicate that they do not take place on Government land or water, but which propose work that appears to the reviewers would be difficult/impossible to carry out without working on government land or waters may be ineligible if no Letter of Support is provided.

 [CCMI Support Letter Darwin Local June 2023](#)
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 [LT Darwin Initiative 22June24 \(Her Excellency the Governor Jane Owen\)](#)
 26/06/2023
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Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Please note the importance of health and safety and environmental risk assessment in the design of your project. If there is any possibility that your project may have negative impacts on the environment or human health, it is important that you provide a comprehensive analysis of potential environmental and human health risks, and the prevention measures you will take to ensure the work does not cause harm.

Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Risk	Mitigation
Hurricane – potential storm renders the camp unfeasible.	Storm warnings are usually in advance, so moving the camp to a different time would be feasible.
In water safety	Water activities are high risk but the CCMI team is well versed in handling groups, with varying degrees of water comfort. The highest water standards and safety assessment are undertaken.
Illness/disease outbreak	Easily transmittable diseases such as Covid-19 present a risk in a residential setting. CCMI has well documented protocols to identify and manage risk to issues such as Covid-19. The team at the station are seasoned in handling a Covid-19 outbreak.

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full

(available at: <https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

Supporting documents list (please have these ready to attach with application)

- Cover Letter of no more than two A4 pages. (Guidance section: 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).
- If the project takes place on public land or water or is addressing invasive alien species, a Letter of support from OT Government.
- Project Workplan in the template provided for Darwin Plus Local (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply>).
- Map and additional information (optional) maximum five additional pages.

If your application is successful

If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

- **Financial evidence for organisations:** Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).
- **Financial evidence for individuals:** Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name: Gretchen Goodbody-Gringley

Position in the organisation: (if applicable) Director of Research and Education

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [ggg signature trans](#)
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Date: 25 June 2023

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water or is addressing alien invasive species, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project that fit this Round.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project workplan using the specific template provided.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: **Increasing Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education**

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Project Workplan** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Round 2 is for a **maximum of six months** with activities starting from 1 October 2023 and all projects must be completed by 31 March 2024.

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the months in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Years 2023/24					
			Calendar Year 2023			Calendar Year 2024		
			Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	Recruitment & Preparation	1						
2	Purchase of snorkel kits	0.5						
3	Execute Camp	0.25						
4	Student surveys completed and analysed	3						
5	Video created and available online	4						
6	Dissemination via social media and virtual tools	6						
7	Final report completed and submitted	2						