

1. Company/Organization Name, Address, Contact: [Nashulai Maasai Conservancy, Kenya](#)

Nashulai Maasai Conservancy

Maasai Mara

Kenya

E-mail: info@nashulai.com

Phone: +254 721 731927

Website: <https://www.nashulai.com>

Main Contacts:

Margaret Reiyia Koshal & Nelson Ole Reiyia, Co-Founders of Nashulai Maasai Conservancy

2. Title of Internship/Practicum: Nashulai UAB Internship Programme

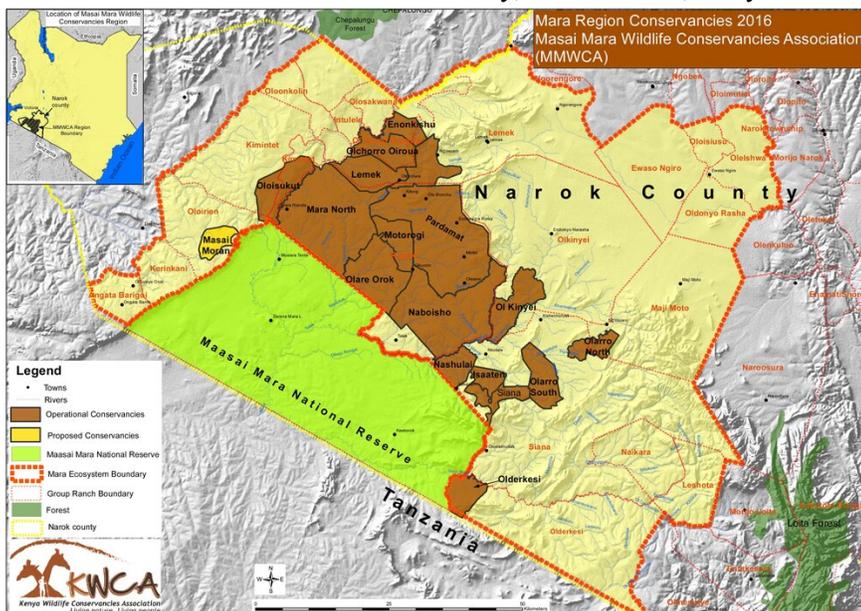
3. Internship Slots Available: 1-2

Spring / **Summer** / Fall semester

Preferred length of stay: 4-10 weeks

Preferred dates of stay: **May 1 – July 31, 2022**

4. Location: Nashulai Maasai Conservancy, Maasai Mara, Kenya



5. Paid or Unpaid Internship: Unpaid. Intern is responsible for own travel and accommodation costs. Koc University can assist with organizing affordable options.

6. Desired Education Level/Degree Concentration: Master Degree Level

7. Brief description of the organization/agency mission, goals, and activities:



Launched in 14 July, 2016 Nashulai is located in the Maasai Mara, Kenya. Notably, it is the first Maasai conservancy in the Maasai Mara to be created, governed and managed by the people whose ancestors have inhabited this beautiful land for centuries, understand it intimately, and have sustained themselves and their herds in harmony with the natural life of this globally important ecosystem. Our private community-run conservancy is a 5000 acre a triangle of land abutting the Mara National Reserve on one side and two other large conservancies on the others, so it is a “keystone” area in the Maasai Mara ecosystem – a critical migratory corridor (from the Serengeti in Tanzania up through the Mara in Kenya) and ancient elephant nursery.

Our mission—Conserve Wildlife>Preserve Culture>Reverse Poverty—is both profoundly simple and very complex, because each dimension is critically interdependent. The combined pressures of climate change, habitat depletion, external development, land commodification and poverty have been increasing steadily over the years, imperiling the area’s capacity to sustain the life—human, pastoral and wild—that depends on it. Land was being fenced, and sold off at an alarming rate. With Nelson’s leadership, the landowning families of our community determined to form the conservancy to halt the downward spiral – to remain on the land, to remove the fences and commit to a common usage system, to regenerate the habitat. Kenya’s leading conservation journalist, John Mbaria wrote: “Nashulai Conservancy is truly a local people’s concern. It is the first ever community-owned wildlife conservancy—created, managed by and for the Maasai people who own not just the land but also direct the initiative. The people’s Conservancy is a unique achievement that promises to inspire a positive change in the entire East Africa region.” “Nashulai’s holistic endeavour is guided by deeply practical traditional knowledge in combination with leading-edge science in wildlife conservation and grasslands management.” The validity of Nashulai’s approach is reinforced by research studies reported in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* (2016): “... wildlife has been in free fall across most of Africa. Only local people can reverse the downward spiral. The research illustrates a very positive finding—community conservation allows people to coexist with wildlife by bringing benefits, not costs, to the people who live alongside it.” Much depends on Nashulai. And it is important to recognize the invaluable contribution of the whole community. Although we are poor we have chosen to see our land not as a commodity but as a commons. Each family could have sold off its own parcel of land, made some much needed money and moved away. Instead, as our Elder and Co-Founder Nelson Ole Reiyia says: “Our people have rallied together to be stewards of this land, where the bones of our ancestors are buried and for the generations of our children yet to come.”

In 2020, Maasai Conservancy won prestigious United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Equator Prize for innovative approach to indigenous community self-determination, biodiversity regeneration, and climate change.

8. Scope of Work/Responsibilities Intern:

Helping capacity our staff in areas of deficiency such as proposal and report writing, social media communication, and project planning and implementation

10. MOU with UAB in place?

Yes

11. Will approval from ethical board be required? If so, how will this be done and what is the anticipated time frame to obtain ethical board approval?

If ethical approval is required, the Sparkman Center staff will assist students with the application and submission of proposal to UAB and Kenyan ethical committees.

Not required

12. Accomodation and transportation: Will be provided at the Oldarpoi Mara Camp in Nashulai

13. Any anticipated challenges?

Adjusting to different culture and environment.

14. COVID-19 Precautions* (including any requirements related to vaccination)

Nashulai Maasai Conservancy: Should be vaccinated and get all other releveant health travel documents.

*This internship is planned as an in-person, international experience in Kenya; however, due to the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, the internship might need to be completed remotely. The determination will be done as soon as possible. The Sparkman Center travel scholarship of \$3,000 per student will be issued only if the internship is conducted in-person in Kenya.

15. Other Safety Precautions

Student should get any other relevant vaccinations and drugs such as anti malarials - to help adjust to the hot weather in Mara.