

PhD in Conservation Medicine



📄 <https://investigacion.unab.cl/doctorados-eng/conservation-medicine/>

2026 ADMISSION

Applications open
1st August

Applications close
3rd October

Excellence in
education and
the generation
of high-impact
research



Universidad
Andrés Bello®



CNA accreditation program for 8 years



8 semesters



Degree: Ph.D. in Conservation Medicine



Faculty: Life Sciences



Director: Claudio Azat



Academic Secretary: Gisela Stotz



Lines of Research:

- One Health
- Global Change
- Biodiversity Conservation





01 Presentation

Conservation Medicine is an interdisciplinary scientific field dedicated to understanding, from a holistic view, health and conservation problems caused by the effects of global change variables and their interaction with the health of humans, animals, plants and the ecosystems that sustain them. Phenomena such as climate change, ecosystem degradation, biological invasions and pollution have vast economic, sociological, ecological and health effects. Conservation Medicine is the theoretical body that generates knowledge to propose solutions through the necessary approaches to face the problems described, promoting the biodiversity conservation and the protection of ecosystems that are essential for the health of all living beings on the planet.

02 General objective

Provide excellence in PhD training, which enables its graduates to understand, deepen and develop original and autonomous research, in relation to the interactions between the variables of global change, that is, environmental changes resulting from anthropogenic activities, in order to determine their impact on human health, animals, plants, and ecosystems, as well as the conservation of the living beings that inhabit them, communicating their results to the public.

03 Specific objectives

- Provide tools for the understanding and generation of new knowledge in the study of the interactions between the variables of global change related to health and conservation problems.
- Promote the development of skills that allow generating research to determine the effect of environmental change on the health of humans, animals, plants and the ecosystems they share.
- Generate instances of academic dialogue to advance in the development of interdisciplinary proposals aimed at solving problems associated with Conservation Medicine.
- Promote spaces that allow to develop tools to communicate orally and in writing the results derived from their research to the specialized and non-specialized public.



04 Graduate profile

The graduate of the PhD in Conservation Medicine program of Universidad Andrés Bello has a solid scientific background to generate new knowledge and communicate original and autonomous research on health and conservation problems that occur in the interaction between humans, animals, plants and the ecosystems that support them, in a context of global change.

It is capable of, from a holistic view, analyze, diagnose, predict and propose solutions to problems in the lines of One Health, Global Change or Biodiversity Conservation.

05 Lines of research

ONE HEALTH

This line proposes a holistic view of health problems at the interface between humans, animals, plants and the environment that sustains them, recognizing that health and all organisms on the planet are closely linked and inter-dependent. Special emphasis is placed on determining how human activities give rise to changes that may affect disease epidemiology or impact public, domestic and wild animal health, and ecosystems. Through an integrative approach, One Health promotes a healthy future and sustainable development.

GLOBAL CHANGE

This line focuses on the study of the impacts of the Anthropocene on biological systems at any of its scales (from molecular to ecosystemic). Among the main drivers of environmental change on a global scale are biological invasions, land use change, pollution, overexploitation of resources and climate change. The understanding of the mechanisms and individual, additive or synergistic effects that the drivers of global change have on natural and urban systems, allow addressing these problems and proposing solutions to prevent, reduce or stop the degradation of ecosystems. Likewise, it addressed the sustainable development of wild, rural and urban lands in balance with the environment.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

This line addresses the science and practice of conserving the diversity of life, from genes, populations, species, communities to ecosystems. It involves the study of threats, as well as actions that seek the protection, restoration and management of biodiversity, including in situ and ex situ conservation approaches. Its purpose is to propose solutions to growing environmental problems considering the importance of biodiversity in the provision of ecosystem services necessary for human well-being.

06 Program director

Claudio Azat
MV, MSc, PhD (Universidad Andrés Bello/
Zoological Society of London).
Claudio.azat@unab.cl

07 Academic faculty

Ruben Avendaño-Herrera
PhD in Biology specialized in Microbiology and
Parasitology of Fish (Universidad Santiago de
Compostela Spain). Line: One Health.

Claudio Azat
PhD in Conservation Medicine (Universidad Andrés
Bello/ Zoological Society of London). Lines: One
Health and Biodiversity Conservation.

Hugo Benítez
PhD in Evolutionary Biology (University of
Manchester, UK).
Line: Global Change.

Francisca Blanco
PhD in Biological Sciences specialized in Molecular
Genetics and Microbiology (Pontificia Universidad
Católica de Chile). Line: One Health.

Cristian Bulboa
PhD in Science specialized in Botany (Universidad
de Sao Paulo, Brasil). Line: Biodiversity
Conservation.

Mauricio Carter
PhD in Science specialized in Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology (Universidad de Chile). Line:
Global Change.

Mauricio Coppo
PhD in Veterinary Virology and Avian Immunology
(University of Melbourne). Line: One Health.

Pablo Cruces
Pediatric Intensivist Physician (Universidad del
Desarrollo). Line: One Health.

Cristian Duarte
PhD in Science specialized in Systems and Ecology
(Universidad Austral de Chile). Line: Global Change.

Gustavo Gatica
PhD in Engineering Sciences, mention in automation
(University of Santiago de Chile). Line: Global Change.

Carlos González
PhD in Pathology (University of Edinburgh, UK).
Line: One Health.

Christian Ibáñez
PhD in Sciences specialized in Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology (Universidad de Chile).
Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Gonzalo Medina
PhD in Wildlife Ecology (Lincoln University, New
Zealand). Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Edmundo Muñoz
PhD in Engineering (Universidad de La Frontera).
Line: Global Change.

Pablo Oyarzún
Doctor in Marine Biology (Austral University of
Chile). Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

M. Cecilia Pardo
PhD in Sciences, specialized in Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology (Universidad de Chile).
Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Rodolfo Paredes
PhD in Biomedical Sciences (Universidad de Chile).
Line: One Health.

José Miguel Pulgar
PhD in Biological Sciences specialized in Ecology
(Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile).
Line: Global Change.

Verónica Quirici
PhD in Biological Sciences specialized in Ecology
(Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile).
Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Claudia Saavedra
Doctor in Biochemistry (University of Chile)
Line: One Health.

Gisela Stotz
PhD in Ecology (University of Alberta, Canada).
Line: Global Change.

Pamela Thomson
PhD in Biomedicine (Universitat Rovira i Virgili,
Catalunya, Spain). Line: One Health.

08 Collaborating professors

Aiko Adell
PhD in Comparative Pathology (University of
California Davis, USA). Line: One Health.

Francisca Astorga
PhD in Conservation Medicine (Universidad Andrés
Bello). Line: One Health.

Daniela Doussang
PhD in Veterinary Sciences (Universidad de
Concepción). Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Cayetano Espinosa
PhD in Conservation Medicine (Universidad Andrés
Bello). Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Juan Manuel Estrada
PhD in Biotechnology (Universidad Andrés Bello).
Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Iván Franchi
PhD in Geography, Territorial Planning and
Environmental Management (Universidad de
Barcelona). Line: Global Change.

Elizabeth Garrido
PhD in Environmental Resource Science
(Universidad de La Frontera). Line: Global Change.

Sebastián Klarián
PhD in Conservation Medicine (Universidad Andrés
Bello). Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Gabriel León
PhD in Biological Sciences, mention in Cellular and
Molecular Biology (Pontificia Universidad Católica de
Chile). Line: One Health.

Beatriz Mella-Lira
PhD in Urban Planning (University College London).
Line: Global Change.

Daniel Pons
PhD in Mathematics (Imperial College London,
University of London, UK). Line: Biodiversity
Conservation.

Alejandro Simeone
PhD in Natural Sciences (University of Kiel,
Germany). Line: Biodiversity Conservation.

Juan Ugalde
PhD in Marine Biology (University of California San
Diego, USA). Line: One Health.

Leonardo Vera
PhD in Environmental Resource Science
(Universidad de La Frontera). Line: Global Change.

09 Visiting Professors

Karina Acevedo-Whitehouse
PhD in Molecular Ecology (University of Cambridge,
UK). Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Mexico.

Pelayo Acevedo
PhD in Biology and Technology of Hunting
Resources (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha,
Spain). Institute for Game and Wildlife Research
(IREC), Spain.

Julio Benavides
PhD in Evolutionary Biology and Ecology (Université de
Montpellier, Francia). Institut de Recherche pour le
Développement (IRD), France.

Andrew Cunningham
PhD in Wildlife Epidemiology (Royal Veterinary
College, University of London, UK). Professor of
Wildlife Epidemiology, Institute of Zoology,
Zoological Society of London, UK.

Luis Emilio Escobar
PhD in Conservation Medicine (Universidad Andres
Bello, Chile). Assistant Professor of Disease Ecology
and Biogeography, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conservation, Virginia Tech, USA.

Arno Gutleb
PhD in Environmental Science, Toxicology
(Wageningen University, The Netherlands). Public
Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology
(LIST), Luxembourg.

Javier Millán
PhD in Veterinary Afilación Millán (Instituto
Agroalimentario de Aragón-IA2, Universidad de
Zaragoza, Spain).

John Organ
PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology (University of
Massachusetts at Amherst, EEUU). US Geological
Survey, EE.UU.

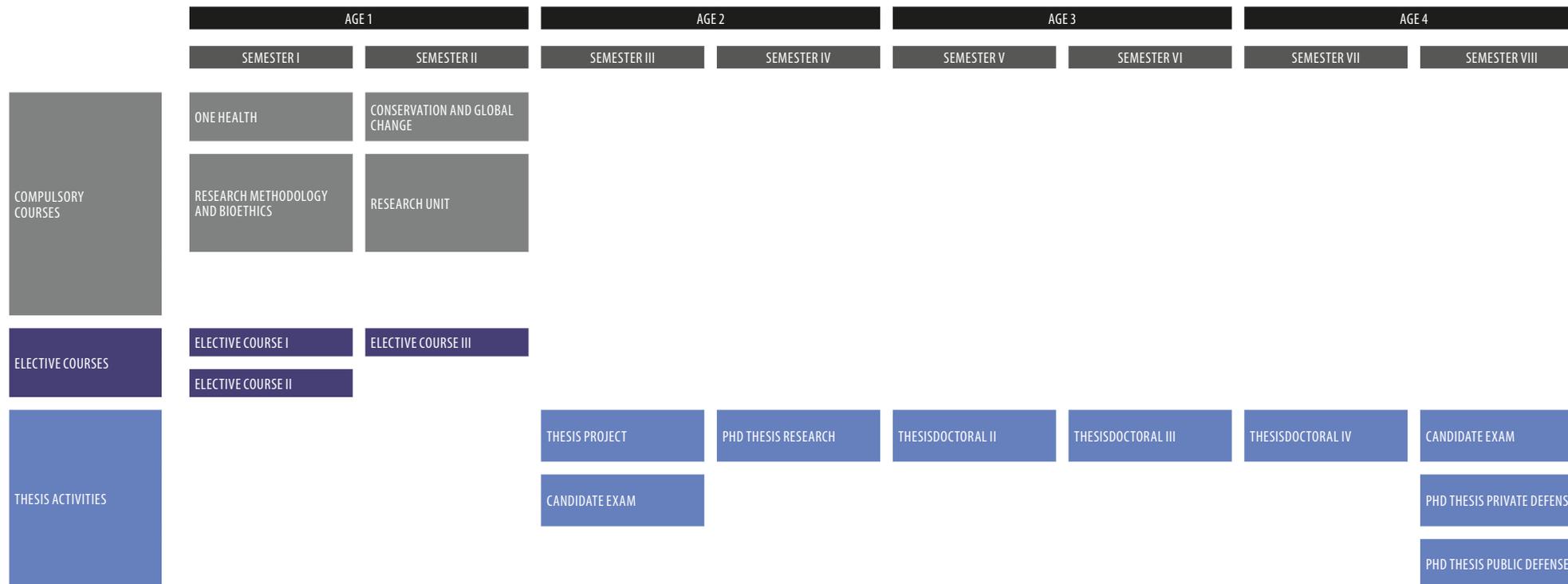
María Soledad Sepúlveda
PhD in Veterinary Sciences (University of Florida).
Professor & Associate Head for Research,
Department of Forestry & Natural Resources,
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

Paul Wagner
PhD in Biology (Virginia Tech University). Professor
of Practice and Program Director, MPS in Climate
Leadership, College of Natural Resources and
Environment, Center for Leadership in Global
Sustainability.

10 Curriculum

PHD CONSERVATION MEDICINE

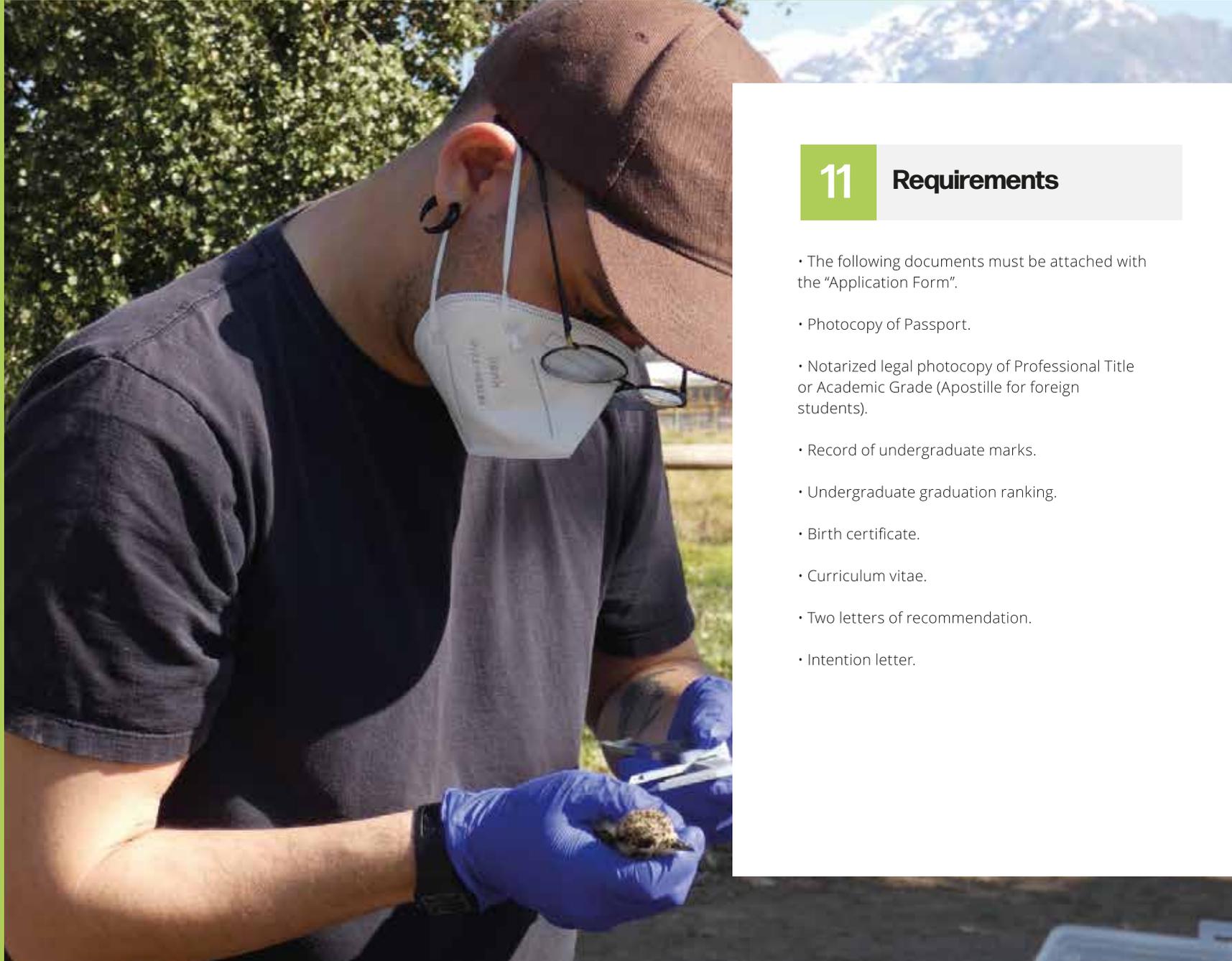
UNIVERSIDAD ANDRÉS BELLO



ELECTIVE COURSES

- APPLICATIONS OF GIS IN ECOSYSTEM HEALTH
- CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
- DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
- PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS IN WILDLIFE SPECIES
- ECOTOXICOLOGY
- ECOPHYSIOLOGY IN A CHANGING WORLD
- CONSERVATION GENETICS
- HUMAN DIMENSIONS IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
- ECOLOGICAL IMMUNOLOGY
- STABLE ISOTOPES IN WILDLIFE
- MICROBIOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY
- STATISTICAL AND SPATIAL ANALYSES IN R
- TOPICS IN ECOLOGY
- WILDLIFE PIDEMIOLOGY
- WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORENSICS
- RESEARCH TECHNIQUES IN WILDLIFE HEALTH
- BIOETHICS AND ANIMAL WELFARE
- GEOMETRIC MORPHOMETRY APPLIED TO ECOSYSTEM HEALTH





11 Requirements

- The following documents must be attached with the “Application Form”.
- Photocopy of Passport.
- Notarized legal photocopy of Professional Title or Academic Grade (Apostille for foreign students).
- Record of undergraduate marks.
- Undergraduate graduation ranking.
- Birth certificate.
- Curriculum vitae.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Intention letter.

APPLICATIONS FROM
August 1 and to October 3, 2025

Application process will be online.
Documents must be sent to the following email address:
ana.torres@unab.cl
Miss Ana Torres
Administrative Secretary of Postgraduate Programs

INFORMATION

Director:
Dr. Claudio Azat
PhD in Conservation Medicine
claudio.azat@unab.cl

Dra. Gisela Stotz
Academic Secretary
gisela.stotz@unab.cl



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Scholarships and funding

Maintenance Scholarship

All students accepted into the program will be able to apply for a maintenance scholarship corresponding to a monthly allowance for 12 months.

Tuition Scholarship

All students accepted into the program can apply for a tuition scholarship, which can cover up to 100% of its cost.

Requirements

- Be a regular student in an UNAB PhD program.
- Students enrolled at maximum in the the 4th year of the program.
- Must not receive any other funding of a similar or equivalent amount, including employment contracts, fee-for-service agreements, scholarship benefits, or project-based payments.

For programs accredited by the CNA, applicants are required to apply for the ANID National Doctoral Scholarship competition, and the application must be deemed admissible.

For more information, please visit the official webpage.

Option to Apply for UNAB Academic Funding Support

- Support for Attendance to Scientific Events
- Research Internships Abroad for PhD Thesis Students
- Initiation to Research

To review application details and requirements, go to <https://investigacion.unab.cl/financing/>



Doctorado en Medicina
de la Conservación





PhD in Conservation Medicine

8 years
PhD in
Conservation Medicine
ACCREDITATION TO DEC. 2032



Comisión Nacional de Acreditación CNA-Chile

<https://investigacion.unab.cl/doctorados-eng/conservation-medicine/>



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