

Press Release

JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

Adventure grant supports research into glacial retreat.

04 April 2023

Carla Huynh will travel to the Patagonian Ice Sheet to study how glaciers respond to climate changes, with funding support from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant.



In November, Carla Huynh, a 26-year old PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, will travel in to islands surrounding the Santa Inés and Cordillera Darwin Icefields, south of Patagonia. These remote islands are under-studied because changeable local weather conditions (with winds up to 100 kph) and dense vegetation make them difficult to access. Carla will collect small samples of rock for cosmogenic isotope dating which will help her produce a model of the ice sheet. This model will demonstrate the history of glacial retreat in the area and contribute towards our understanding of modern-day climate change. Carla will work closely with local researchers based in Chile.

Carla firmly believes that understanding our planet's climate and wild places is the first step in protecting them. On receiving the news of the grant offer Carla said: "I am extremely grateful to be awarded the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant to support my research in southernmost Patagonia. The remote islands I will be sampling from are seldom visited by scientists and this fieldwork will improve our understanding of glacial fluctuations and climate forcings in this region. It will also be my first self-led scientific expedition and I am excited to be given this opportunity."

Jenny Seaman of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "The grant panel were highly impressed by Carla's detailed research plans. The remote location and challenges of conducting scientific fieldwork from a sailing boat make this is an adventurous and ambitious trip which the panel were delighted to support."

Carla is one of six successful applicants to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant in 2023. This grant was established to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places in ways which will benefit both the person, and the wild places themselves.

Editor's Notes

About the John Muir Trust

The John Muir Trust is a leading voice for the UK's wild places. Its stewardship of some of Britain's most iconic wild places, including Ben Nevis and Helvellyn, is guided by three freedoms; ensuring nature has the freedom to repair itself, people have the freedom to enjoy the benefits, and communities have the freedom to thrive. For 40 years, the Trust has advocated for the protection of wild places by evidencing their benefit to society. Driven by the belief that wild places are for everyone – it also provides opportunities for people from all walks of life to engage with nature through its UK-wide environmental award scheme, the John Muir Award.

About the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant

The grant commemorates two former Presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, who each led inspiring and adventurous lives. It was set up to give others an opportunity to follow in their adventurous footsteps and experience wild places. Projects should have an educational or scientific component and benefit wild places.

Bill Wallace, died of heart failure in February 2007 while skiing in the Alps at the age of 73 with two artificial hips.

Des Rubens, was a popular teacher at Craigroyston High School in Edinburgh was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Grants are for £200 to £2,000 and open to UK applicants of all ages. Closing date for applications is 15 January each year. Further details on how to apply: <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/whats-new/grants/des-rubens-and-bill-wallace-grant>

Contact

Jenny Seaman

Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant Administrator

t: 01796 470080 e: jenny.seaman@johnmuirtrust.org

johnmuirtrust.org