



Utrecht University, Faculty of Science (UU)

## Observing Primate Behaviour

Looking at primates is like looking in a mirror. Similar to humans, primates are highly sociable animals with complex social interactions. Relationships of primates are characterized by agonism, affiliation and sex. Understanding their social behaviour requires objective observational methods and careful data analysis. The summer course **Observing Primate Behaviour** focuses on getting familiar with primate observational methods by observing primate social behaviour and following the scientific cycle. Through the (statistical) analysis of gathered observational data, students answer and present their own research questions.

As the name suggests, the summer course 'Observing Primate Behaviour' focuses on observing behaviour and therefore includes actual data collection of primate social behaviour by observations. The course employs the scientific cycle by asking and answering research questions through the analysis of the gathered observational data. The student uses statistical methods (using SPSS Statistics and MatMan) to analyse the data and will present their own research both in writing and verbally.

In addition, the course includes lectures on animal behaviour, behavioural research experiences, a social event and visits to two famous Dutch zoos: Burgers' Zoo, Arnhem, with its well-known chimpanzee colony and the primate zoo Apenheul, Apeldoorn. The observations will be conducted on the colony of long-tailed macaques that is used for behavioural biology studies, housed at the Biomedical Primate Research Centre (BPRC), Rijswijk. This expertise centre conducts biomedical research within the strict Dutch laws on animal experimentation. The BPRC provides one day in the program with information and discussions on the ethics of animal husbandry, welfare and experimentation.

The course is open for advanced bachelor and master students biology that have followed and passed courses in Animal Behaviour and basic statistics. The course has a minimum of 8 and maximum of 16 participants. Applicants should include a letter with motivation (max 200 words), short resume (including information on general education and courses on animal behaviour topics) and grades.

Deadline to registration is 1st of May 2016.

**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Prof dr E.H.M. Sterck  
**PERIOD:** 8 August 2016 - 26 August 2016  
**FEE:** €1790 (including housing)  
**CREDITS:** 4.5 ECTS  
**MORE INFORMATION:** [www.utrechtsummerschool.nl](http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl)