# 2023 Oxford University Museum of Natural History Undergraduate Bursary Scheme

## Project: Moa collections – digitisation, rehousing, and curation

### Project summary

This project will involve working alongside Zoology collections staff on the OUMNH Moa (Dinorthiformes) specimens to digitise, rehouse, label, and re-curate the collection. This collection of important subfossil material requires photographing and databasing using our EMu database software so the records can be published on OUMNH collections online. The objects need to be rehoused in custom-made correx boxes lined with plastazote for their protection. These boxes will then be labelled and arranged taxonomically within their cabinet. This will increase the longevity of the specimens and facilitate access by researchers in the future.

### Project details

In order to accomplish this project, the student will:

* Receive full training
* Photograph the specimens to a high standard
* Research the taxonomy and history of the objects in order to database them
* Create custom museum-grade boxes from correx and plastazote to house the specimens
* Create museum labels for the specimen boxes
* Re-curate the collection including remedial conservation of damaged specimens, labelling, and transfer to new storage
* Write a report of the project
* [Stretch goal] Continue the project methodology on the OUMNH Dodo (*Raphus cucullatus)* collections

### Selection criteria

#### Essential

* Excellent attention to detail, with an organised and methodical approach
* Commendable manual dexterity, with the ability to reliably manipulate and handle fragile material
* Ability to concentrate for long periods on repetitive tasks
* Strong self-motivation and ability to work independently without close supervision, and as part of a team
* Good communication skills

#### Desirable

* Strong interest in working in a museum setting
* Basic understanding of taxonomy
* Familiarity with Microsoft Office applications

### Outcomes for the intern

* Experience in the organisation, handling, and management of natural history specimens
* A more in-depth knowledge of Moa taxonomy and history
* Improved knowledge of museums and collections care, as well as documentation
* Experience in digitisation of museum specimens with use of specialist museum Collections Management Software
* Good organisational, documentation, and IT skills
* Particularly valuable experience for students interested in a career in museums