Organization for Tropical Studies

2016 OTS Undergraduate Programs (Click here to view undergraduate brochure)

Undergraduate students attending OTS member institutions have priority admission to our programs and summer research experiences as well as priority access to scholarships. For more information about undergraduate programs and scholarship opportunities, please contact the Enrollment Management team at undergraduate@tropicalstudies.org. OTS programs are among the most rigorous, research-focused international experiences for students interested in biology, environmental sciences, and global health. Please encourage your students to apply!

We will be offering the following undergraduate programs in 2016:

- **Tropical Biology** summer program in Costa Rica (offered in collaboration with Duke University) – rolling admissions now through March 1st, 2016
- **Global Health Issues in South Africa** summer program (offered in collaboration with Duke University) – rolling admissions now through March 1st, 2016
- **Tropical Island Ecology and Evolution** summer program in Hawaii (offered in collaboration with the University of Hawaii) – application deadline: February 28th, 2016
- **Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)** summer program at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica – application deadline: January 31st, 2016
- **Native American and Pacific Island Research Experience for Undergraduates (NAPIRE)** summer program at Las Cruces Biological Station in Costa Rica – application deadline: February 15th, 2016
- **Tropical Biology on a Changing Planet** semester program in Costa Rica (offered in collaboration with Duke University) – fall semester rolling admissions now through April 1st, 2016
- **Tropical Diseases, Environmental Change and Human Health** semester program in Costa Rica (offered in collaboration with Duke University) – fall semester rolling admissions now through April 1st, 2016
- **African Ecology and Conservation** semester program in South Africa (offered in collaboration with Duke University) – fall semester rolling admissions now through April 1st, 2016

For Spring 2017 semester programs, the application deadline is November 1st, 2016.

2016 OTS Graduate Courses (Click here to view graduate course catalog)

Students attending institutions that are members of the OTS consortium pay lower tuition and have top priority for admission and additional scholarships. For more information about graduate programs and scholarship opportunities, please contact us at graduate@tropicalstudies.org.

Tropical Biology 2016-3 is our hallmark field ecology course that immerses graduate students in hypothesis-driven research learning and features a science communication workshop in which students learn to communicate their research through videos and podcasts. Watch the OTS Grad Video to see what this classic course is all about!

We will be offering the following graduate courses this summer:

- **Tropical Biology: An Ecological Approach 2016-3** – application deadline: March 1st, 2016
- **Tropical Plant Systematics 2016-9** – application deadline: March 1st, 2016

Note: Students attending institutions that are members of the OTS consortium may apply to the above courses by February 3rd, 2016 for early admission.

We will be offering the following graduate specialty courses this summer:

- **Systematics, Ecology, Evolution and Uses of Palms** – rolling admissions now through March 1st, 2016
- **Tropical Fungi and Fungal-like Organisms** – rolling admissions now through March 1st, 2016
Tropical Conservation and Sustainable Development: Law, Policy and Professional Practice (offered in collaboration with the University of Florida) – rolling admissions now through March 1st, 2016

Animals, People and Nature – rolling admissions now through March 1st, 2016

Inquiry in Rainforests: An In-Service Program for Teachers – application deadline: April 1st, 2016

2016 OTS Research Opportunities

NEW: Emerging Challenges in Tropical Science Program (ECTS) – OTS is pleased to offer new opportunities for research fellowships, workshops, and data management to scientists in all stages of their careers. Graduate students, post docs, early career and research scientists, scientists on sabbatical, and holders of golden data should click on the above new program for all the details!

The ECTS is a new, integrated OTS program designed to catalyze research that addresses the most significant challenges to sustainability in the tropics. It will provide research fellowships, workshop support, data management, and data access to promote research in Costa Rica that addresses three emerging challenges to tropical ecosystems:

1. How do tropical ecosystems respond to a changing climate?
2. How do natural and human-dominated systems interact?
3. How can we restore tropical ecosystems?

Funds from the new ECTS Program will support research at the three OTS research stations in Costa Rica:

- La Selva Research Station – where world-class research takes place in over 1,600ha. of tropical rainforest
- Las Cruces Research Station – a center for applied research in premontane tropical forest and the foremost botanical garden in Central America
- Palo Verde Research Station – where the tropical dry forest meets the wetlands, attracting thousands of aquatic birds each year

The ECTS Program includes the following five subprograms:

1. **ECTS Research Fellowships (ECTS-R)** for researchers (especially early career scientists) – This program supports preliminary field work that initiates new long-term research, builds upon long-term data collected at the OTS stations, or provides long-term continuity to ongoing projects started by senior researchers. Application deadlines: February 8th and June 27th, 2016

2. **ECTS Workshops (ECTS-W)** for expert working groups – This program convenes expert working groups to develop an innovative and competitive research idea and to prepare at least one grant proposal or pre-proposal to support research at one or more OTS research station. Once a year, OTS will award 1-2 grants, on a competitive basis, for working groups to meet at one of the OTS research stations for 3-7 days. Application deadline: February 15th, 2016

3. **ECTS Graduate Student Fellowships (ECTS-GS)** for graduate student researchers – This program supports initial work for graduate theses focused on an ECTS theme. Application deadlines: March 1st and October 1st, 2016

4. **ECTS Sabbatical Fellowships (ECTS-S)** for faculty on sabbatical – This program supports scientists on sabbatical leave conducting assembly and synthesis of long-term data from OTS stations. You may apply at any time during the year.

5. **ECTS Golden Data Fellowships (ECTS-GD)** for senior scientists who own golden data (unpublished and unavailable) collected at one of the OTS research stations – This program supports the recovery and posting of historic and currently unavailable data (golden or dark data) for further use in new research. You may apply at any time during the year.

Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to serving the needs of the students, faculty and researchers from your institution!

Sincerely,
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