



BESS NSERC-CREATE Graduate Studies Opportunity

The NSERC-CREATE on Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability is recruiting PhD and MSc students interested in, but not restricted to, biodiversity, ecology, evolution, conservation, environmental management, and human-environment interactions. The BESS Program provides a multidisciplinary and immersive training experience to help prepare the next generation of environmental scientists to work with industry, environmental consulting firms, governments, NGOs, and universities. BESS training provides students with skills in environmental monitoring, biodiversity surveying, ecological impact assessment, mitigation strategies, the design of restoration projects, statistical analysis, adaptive forest and agricultural management, and mathematical modeling for predictive and prescriptive planning.

The Program has a strong multidisciplinary component and a diverse group of researchers and collaborators — Quebec universities, Canadian companies working in Panama, and several Panamanian institutions, particularly the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute — who administer and supervise complementary courses, an internship rotation, and thesis research. BESS also provides students with an immersive experience through courses and internships in Panama, and elsewhere in the Neotropics.

BESS provides funding to students in the form of stipends and travel allowances. There are no citizenship restrictions. Stipends are given on an individual basis and depending on budget availability, but will not surpass \$14,000 CAD per year. Students who are holders of a major fellowship (NSERC, NSF, Fullbright, etc.) will receive a \$5000 CAD per year top-up. In addition, all students are eligible for up to \$1500 CAD per year to travel to internships, conferences, courses and/or fieldwork.

Applicants must first contact a potential supervisor in one of the three partnering universities (McGill, Laval and UQAM). Students must then apply to the supervisor's department. All students must meet the admission criteria

of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the university and the entrance requirements of the specific department.

Candidates applying to BESS will be considered by the Program Delivery Committee, who will consider the following criteria:

Academic background

Relevance and viability of proposed research

Benefits to the Program

Most of the research has to be done in the Neotropics.

Proficiency in French, Spanish, or Portuguese is highly desirable

*All applicants are invited to apply but priority will be given to projects related to the core disciplines of BESS: Biology, Natural Resource Sciences, Geography, Environment.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 15TH, 2018.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY VISIT:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/bess/apply>