TREx 2024: Information for registrants

1. Overview of TREx

Tropical Research Experience (TREx) is offered by the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER) of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), designed to provide research experience in biodiversity and ecology of tropical rainforests and aquatic ecosystems. TREx is a 2-week program comprising virtual and physical components. The virtual component is built around lectures on key topics by scientists who actively engage in biodiversity research. The highlight of TREx is a 5-day research fieldwork at the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre (KBFSC), where participants will be involved in research projects and nature outings.

During TREx participants will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about key topics on biodiversity and field techniques from research scientists.
- Conduct a supervised and biodiversity-themed field research project.
- Report research findings in a seminar.
- Have a unique experience in tropical rainforests in Borneo.

TREx will be held from **20 to 31 August 2024**.

2. Programme schedule

The TREx programme is outlined here

3. Who is TREx for? (also see FAQs)

Registrant should meet the following criteria:

- A **nature enthusiast**.
- A **keen interest** to learn about and experience biodiversity research in tropical rainforests.
- A **higher education (at least Diploma level)** student or a graduate, or a working professional.
- Have a good working knowledge of the English language.
- Have fundamental knowledge and skills in using a computer and standard software e.g. MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.
- Able to work independently and behave responsibly with minimum supervision. Our field sites consist of fragile habitats and are home to endangered populations of plants and animals. Participants are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and in the realisation that their behaviour while visiting such sites must be adjusted accordingly (i.e. "*take only pictures, leave only (the occasional carefully placed) footprints*"). While out in the field, site regulations must be followed at all times.
- ***Able to arrange travel to and from Brunei Darussalam on own expenses**. Passport must have **at least 6 months validity** from the date of leaving Brunei.
- **Be medically fit and free from any medical problems**, which may impair participant's ability to attend and complete the field course. Registered participants are **required to submit a signed health declaration form** (further details will be provided). Please note that due to the rigorous nature of the activities, this field course is **not suitable for expectant mothers**.

- ***Able to arrange for comprehensive insurance that is valid for their stay in Brunei**. The insurance must cover travel, accidents and medical expenses including those related to fieldwork activities as well as infectious disease. Registered participants are **required to submit a copy of the insurance policy**.

** Applicable to international participants.*

4. Number of participants

Program attendance is capped to **20 participants** to optimise the participants' experiences during the research field course, and to ensure health and safety purposes throughout the program. Confirmation of registration will be on a first-come-and-first-serve basis.

5. Facilitator team

The facilitators comprise UBD researchers as well as their international collaborators who actively engage in tropical field research (see program schedule above).

6. Program fee

	***Brunei-based participant**	**International participant**
Full-fee	BND 500 per person	USD 1,000 per person (BND 1360)
Registration deposit fee	BND 300 per person	USD 500 per person (BND 750)

*Brunei-based: Those currently residing in Brunei Darussalam with Brunei Darussalam's Identification Card.

Included in the course fees

- *Accommodation at BSB.
- Return transportations (to and from venues and *accommodation).
- Meals at venues.
- Course materials and instructions on UBD campus and at KBFSC.
- Field trips (inclusive of local transportation, accommodation and meals).
- NGS fee
- *Visa endorsement fee (for international participants only).

Not included in the course fees

- *Return air fare to and from Brunei.
- Costs associated with activities incurred outside of the programme itinerary e.g. meals at accommodation, leisure activities.
- Medical expenses (this should be covered by the insurance policy).
- *Visa on Arrival fee.

**Applicable to international participants only.*

7. TREx Bursary

IBER is offering a partial funding of **BND 286** to cover the TREX 2024 program fees for **three (3) participants** selected on a competitive basis. This bursary is open for application to **current UBD undergraduate and graduate students who will not be graduating in August-December 2024 semester**.

The following documents (PDF files) must be submitted along with your application:

- A personal statement (max. 1 page).
- A copy of Brunei identification card.
- A curriculum vitae.
- Proof of active candidature in UBD i.e., a screenshot from the UBD GenNEXT Information System (UBD-GIS).

Incomplete applications or those not adhering to instructions will not be considered.

APPLY HERE.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **9 July 2024.**

Recipients of the bursary will be contacted in due course.

8. How to register for TREx?

- Before registering, please read the **FAQs**.
- Complete the TREx registration form **HERE.**
- Application deadline is on **9 July 2024.**

9. Information for international registrants

Visa arrangements

- Confirmed participants of TREx may be required to apply for a **visa**.
- UBD will be able to assist with the visa arrangements that can be made on time. The TREx organisers will confirm whether visa arrangement is possible at the time of your registration.

10. Terms and conditions of registration and cancelation

- Confirmation of participation is subject to a participant meeting all the requirements, availability and the payment of course fees before the set deadlines.
- To secure your spot at TREx 2024, please ensure that the deposit fee is paid **within 14 days** from the date of receiving your invitation letter. Failure to do so will result in the invitation being considered void.
- Your participation in TREx 2024 will be confirmed once the full fee is paid by **July 31st, 2024**. Failure to complete payment by this date will result in the cancellation of your registration, and a processing fee will be incurred.
- Below are the terms and conditions for cancellations and fee refunds:
  - Cancellations more than 12 weeks before the start of TREx: A cancellation processing fee of 50% of the deposit amount will be deducted from the total refund.
  - Cancellations less than 12 weeks before the start of TREx: A cancellation processing fee of 100% of the deposit amount will be deducted from the total refund.
  - Any bank transfer charges incurred for the refund will be the responsibility of the recipient and will be deducted from the total refund amount.
  - In the event of TREx being cancelled by the organiser, participants will receive a full refund.
- Participants who wish to cancel their participation and seek refund are required to **submit a written request** and e-mail to office.iber@ubd.edu.bn along with a copy of the payment receipt.

11. Further information and enquiries

Useful links:
Information on TREx here
IBER: https://iber.ubd.edu.bn/
UBD: https://ubd.edu.bn/
KBFSC: https://iber.ubd.edu.bn/kbfsc/

For enquiries please e-mail:
office.iber@ubd.edu.bn