



# TREx 2023 (26 June to 7 July 2023): Information for applicants



## Table of contents

1	<a href="#">Overview of TREx</a>	6	<a href="#">Course fees</a>
2	<a href="#">Programme schedule</a>	7	<a href="#">How to apply?</a>
3	<a href="#">Who is TREx for?</a>	8	<a href="#">Information for international applicants</a>
4	<a href="#">Number of participants</a>	9	<a href="#">Confirmation of registration</a>
5	<a href="#">Facilitator team</a>	10	<a href="#">Further information and enquiries</a>

## 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 7-day virtual and 5-day physical components. The virtual component is built around lectures on key topics by scientists who actively engage in tropical field 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.
- Get involved in writing a manuscript (post-TREx).
- Have a unique experience in tropical rainforests in Borneo.

TREx will be held from **26 June to 7 July 2023**.

## 2. Programme schedule

The TREx programme is given [here](#)

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

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- A **nature enthusiast**.
- A **keen interest** to learn about and experience biodiversity research in tropical rainforests.
- A **student at a higher institution (at least Diploma level) or have a Bachelor's Degree or a Diploma**. Current students, graduates and working professionals are welcome to apply.
- Have a good working knowledge of the English language. The programme will be conducted in English.
- Have fundamental knowledge and skills in using a computer and standard softwares.

- 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 COVID-19. Registered participants are **required to submit a copy of the insurance policy**.

\* for international participants.

#### 4. Number of participants

Course 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 course. Confirmation of registration will be on a first-come-and-first-serve basis.

#### 5. Facilitator team

The facilitators comprise UBD academics and researchers as well as invited international facilitators who actively engage in tropical field research. Further details about the facilitators will be provided in the run up to the course starting date.

#### 6. Course fees

Brunei-based participant: **BND 450 per person.**

International participant: **BND 1,000 per person.**

##### **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 (for international participants only).
- 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 (for international participants only).

*\*applicable to international participants only*

## 7. How to apply?

- Before applying, please read the [FAQs](#).
- Complete the TReX application form [here](#).
- Application deadline is on **15 May 2023**.

## 8. Information for international applicants

### Visa arrangements

- Confirmed participants of TReX will **require a Student Visa**, which will be **arranged by UBD**.
- As a requirement from the Immigration Department of Brunei Darussalam, confirmed participants are required to submit to the organiser a **security clearance letter** issued by the relevant authorities of the participants' home countries. However, participants from UBD's partner universities will be exempted from this requirement.
- All required documentations must be submitted to IBER no later than **30 May 2023**.

## 9. Confirmation of registration

- Confirmation of participation is subject to a participant meeting all the requirements (see nos. 3 and 8) and payment of the course fees before the set deadlines.
- To confirm your registration in TReX 2023:
  - A deposit fee of **BND100** of the course fee must be paid within **14 days** from the date of the invitation letter.
  - The balance of the course fee must be paid not later than **5 June 2023**. If full payment is not made after this deadline, the registrant will be considered to have withdrawn from TReX.
- Upon confirmation, participants will be required to **register as UBD non-graduating student (NGS)** through an online portal. Further details will be provided.

### Cancellation policy:

- Cancellation of registration by the participants, for any reason, **must be submitted in writing and addressed to the IBER Director**. Please note that the cancellation will not be effective and the request for refund will not be processed until a written acknowledgement from the IBER is issued.
- Refund of fees will depend on the following conditions:
  - a) If only the deposit fee was paid, a **cancellation processing fee (30% of the deposit amount)** will be deducted from the total amount refunded.
  - b) If full fee payment was made, and cancellation of registration was made **more than three weeks** before the start of TReX, a **cancellation processing fee (30% of the deposit amount)** will be deducted from the total amount refunded. However, if the cancellation was made **less than three weeks** before the start of TReX, a **cancellation processing fee of BND100 (100% of deposit amount)** will be deducted from the total amount refunded.
  - c) Cancellation of TReX by the organiser: All fees will be refunded accordingly.

## 10. Further information and enquiries

### Useful links:

Information on TReX <https://iber.ubd.edu.bn/trex-2023/>

IBER: <https://iber.ubd.edu.bn/>

UBD: <https://ubd.edu.bn/>

KBFSC: <https://iber.ubd.edu.bn/kbfsc/>

### For enquiries please e-mail:

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