

# ***INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL ECOLOGY FIELD COURSE***

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**AUGUST 2025**

THE **INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL ECOLOGY FIELD COURSE 2025** OFFERS STUDENTS A CHANCE TO EMBARK ON A **UNIQUE LEARNING ADVENTURE IN THE TROPICAL RAINFORESTS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**. WITH OVER 6% OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY, STUDENTS WILL GET TO EXPERIENCE THE ASTOUNDING DIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA FIRST-HAND, FROM THE BIRDS OF PARADISE, TO THE BIRDWING BUTTERFLY AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.





## WHERE IS IT?

THE FIELD COURSE TAKES PLACE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN ACROSS THE PACIFIC AS PNG. PNG FORMS THE EASTERN HALF OF THE ISLAND OF NEW GUINEA, THE SECOND LARGEST ISLAND IN THE WORLD. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST CULTURALLY DIVERSE NATIONS ON THE PLANET, WHERE MILLENNIA OF TRIBAL LIVING HAVE GENERATED OVER 850 SPOKEN LANGUAGES, THAT'S ABOUT 15% OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES! WE WILL SPEND THE FIELD COMPONENT IN A REMOTE FIELD STATION WITHIN THE **WANANG CONSERVATION AREA**, AN INDIGENOUSLY OPERATED CONSERVATION INITIATIVE IN MADANG PROVINCE. THE REST OF THE TIME WE WILL BE BASED AT OUR HOST INSTITUTE **NEW GUINEA BINATANG RESEARCH CENTER**, WITH DAYS TRIPS TO A VARIETY OF ECOSYSTEMS.



## WHEN IS IT?

THE COURSE WILL TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT **AUGUST 2025**. STUDENTS WILL SPEND THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN THE WANANG CONSERVATION AREA, FOLLOWED BY 10 DAYS AT NEW GUINEA BINATANG RESEARCH CENTER. AFTER THIS WE WILL SPEND SOME TIME VISITING SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND ECOSYSTEMS TIME PERMITTING. STUDENTS CAN EXPECT TO FLY HOME AT THE END OF AUGUST.





## WHAT WILL I DO?

STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT **TROPICAL ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION** FROM AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF INSTRUCTORS SPECIALISING ON RAINFOREST ECOLOGY, INSECTS, BIRDS, PLANTS, REPTILES, MAMMALS AND MUCH MORE. YOU WILL **LEARN HOW TO SAMPLE AND IDENTIFY TAXA, HOW RAINFORESTS WORK, HOW TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT MINI-PROJECTS**, WHAT BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION LOOKS LIKE AND HOW THE INDIGENOUS GUARDIANS THESE RAINFORESTS LIVE. ALL THE WHILE YOU WILL ENGAGE **IN A CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH YOUR PAPUA NEW GUINEAN PEERS**, TEAMING UP TO TACKLE RESEARCH QUESTIONS.



## WHAT TO EXPECT?

PNG IS KNOWN AS THE '**LAND OF THE UNEXPECTED**', BUT LUCKILY WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS A WHILE SO WE CAN TELL YOU WHAT TO EXPECT. PARTICIPANTS WILL LIVE AND WORK IN A TROPICAL CLIMATE, WHICH MEANS HOT WEATHER, SOME HEAVY RAINS AND SOME ANNOYING INSECTS. BUT IT ALSO MEANS ECOSYSTEMS OF UNMATCHED BEAUTY. PRISTINE LOWLAND RAINFORESTS, CORAL REEFS, VOLCANIC ISLANDS, MANGROVES, ALPINE MOUNTAINS ARE JUST SOME OF THE PLACES YOU WILL VISIT. WE WILL WORK IN SOME QUITE INACCESSIBLE AREAS, REQUIRING LONG TREKS BY FOOT. STUDENTS SHOULD BE RELATIVELY FIT, IF YOU CAN WALK 15 KMS IN ONE DAY THEN YOU ARE FIT ENOUGH.



## REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO APPLY

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE COURSE AS A BACHELORS OR MASTERS STUDENT AT THE FACILITY OF SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH BOHEMIA. WE ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM ANY STUDY SPECIALISATION BUT YOU MUST BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE AN INTEREST OR BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF ECOLOGY OR RELATED FIELDS. THE COST OF THE COURSE WILL BE CZK20,000 AND IT IS ADVISED THAT STUDENTS BRING APPROX. CZK10,000 IN SPENDING MONEY. TO APPLY, SEND A CV (INCLUDING GRADE AVERAGE FOR THE LAST THREE SEMESTERS; TWO FOR 2ND YEAR STUDENTS, IF YOU ARE 1ST YEAR BSC THEN NO SUCH REQUIREMENT APPLIES) AND A LETTER OF MOTIVATION TO [NOVOTNY@ENTU.CAS.CZ](mailto:NOVOTNY@ENTU.CAS.CZ) BY 20 DECEMBER 2024 (23:55 CET). SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE INTERVIEWED IN JANUARY 2025. FINALLY, THE COURSE IS RUN IN ENGLISH, SO APPLICANTS SHOULD BE REASONABLY PROFICIENT..