



Invitation to apply for The Habitat Foundation Masters Scholarship at the School of Biological Sciences, USM



Topic

Application of bioacoustics to document and monitor wildlife diversity on Penang Hill

Insights into the rhythm of life

Bioacoustics is an exciting new research field. The sounds of the Malaysian rainforest - frogs, geckos, birds, bats, squirrels, primates, and insects create a distinctive soundscape. With emerging technology and analytic software we are now able to capture the sounds of nature and gain valuable insights into the natural world. Documenting and monitoring this soundscape also has the potential to provide indicators of species diversity and ecosystem health.

The aim of this research is to document the diversity and abundance of wildlife of Penang Hill using bioacoustics. It will build a reference library of unique sonotypes for the species of the hill. This will provide a baseline and foundation for asking important ecological questions.

The scholarship

The Habitat Foundation is funding a Masters Scholarship for Research in Bioacoustics on Penang Hill which will be offered at the School of Biological Sciences (SBS), USM. The successful candidate will have their university registration and tuition fees covered, and receive a monthly stipend of RM1,000 for 24 months. Equipment and field costs will be provided by The Habitat Foundation.

Who can apply

The scholarship is offered to Malaysian citizens and will be for 2 years. Suitable candidates are encouraged to apply by **30 May 2021**.

Candidates should

- enjoy the outdoors and have a keen sense of curiosity and interest in conducting fieldwork in the tropical rain forest
- possess a Bachelor's degree in biology, geography or any other relevant field (CGPA > 2.75/4.00)
- have a good command of English and Bahasa Malaysia
- be self-motivated and capable of carrying out independent research
- be a good team player but also able to work under minor supervision

How to apply

Applicants should submit a short statement letter (1 page) explaining their interest in the research accompanied by their (1) Curriculum Vitae, (2) academic transcript, and (3) letter of reference.

Enquiries may be addressed to Dr Nadine Ruppert <n.ruppert@usm.my>.

Applications for the scholarship, should be received by email not later than 30 May 2021.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by mid-June 2021 for an interview.