

2017/2018 TCD Assistantships

The Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program in the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida (UF) announces a competition for Graduate Fellowships and Assistantships to support Master's and Doctoral level study in various disciplines. Awards cover tuition and typically provide a \$18,000 stipend for one academic year of study at UF, usually matched by a second year of support from the student's department. The TCD Graduate Assistantship is provided to allow students to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Florida. TCD Graduate Fellowships and Assistantships are made possible by an endowment from the Ford Foundation and the State of Florida.

ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Recipients must be admitted to a graduate degree program at UF or be a current student in the TCD graduate certificate program.
- ✓ For new students, if admission results are not available by the deadline, the award will be contingent upon acceptance by UF.
- ✓ Recipients are required to participate in TCD sponsored activities and to complete the 12–15 credit TCD interdisciplinary graduate certificate.
- ✓ TCD Graduate Assistantships do not support off-campus field research.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Applicants will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Research/academic** interests and approach:
Strong applicants will be those that demonstrate: **A)** a commitment to multidisciplinary approaches that integrate biological conservation, local peoples, and/or natural resource management; and **B)** a good match with TCD goals and community
2. Plans and potential for **career and leadership** in conservation and development, especially in tropical or developing world contexts:
Strong applicants will be perceived to: **A)** have potential to multiply impact of the TCD mission by applying and sharing knowledge and approach in new realms; **B)** potential contribution to tropical countries (or regions of interest to TCD including southern cone in South America, southern Africa, Greater Himalayan region), communities, ecosystems.
3. **Experience** relevant to conservation and development, especially in tropical or developing world contexts, including regions of interest to TCD such as southern cone in South America, southern Africa, Greater Himalayan region:
Experience that strengthens a student's application might include: **A)** volunteer, life or work experiences (private, government, NGO, Peace Corps, etc.); and/or **B)** partnerships and collaborations, such as with TCD alumni or partners, local organizations, NGOs.
4. **Academic record** and qualifications (i.e., GRE, TOEFL, grades, coursework that demonstrates interest and experience in TCD program related areas).

5. **For current UF/TCD students:** Emphasis will be placed on the degree and quality of participation in TCD related activities, current enrollment in TCD certificate, intellectual growth and progress in program, and demonstration of student leadership in TCD.
6. **For students applying from UF/MDP program** who are not completing thesis/dissertation research, special emphasis will be placed on career and leadership potential in conservation and development arena.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2017

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply for a TCD Graduate Fellowship or Assistantship, submit the following materials:

1. TCD Fellowship/Assistantship [application form](#) (**New application form posted on December 17, 2015**)
2. **A letter of support** from your current or future faculty adviser or department Graduate Coordinator stating: the reasons why you should be considered for a TCD Graduate Fellowship/Assistantship; your status at UF (e.g. incoming student, second year student, etc.); and, if possible, an agreement to provide a year of departmental support for every year of TCD Graduate Fellowship support awarded. Incoming students are encouraged to begin contact with potential advisors early in the process (e.g., 4-6 months prior to February application) in order to secure a letter of support.
3. One **letter of recommendation**, accompanied by the [release form](#).
4. **A two page statement of purpose** explaining what you plan to do during your graduate training at UF and why you should be considered for a TCD Graduate Fellowship/Assistantship. Include details about your research interests, career goals, leadership potential, and related work experience (see 'criteria for selection' section above). Current students should also highlight past involvement in TCD activities.
5. A copy of your **curriculum vitae**.
6. Originals or photocopies of **academic transcripts** from all colleges and universities attended
7. Graduate Record Exam (**GRE**) scores
8. Test of English as Foreign Language (**TOEFL**) scores, if applicable.
9. If you are applying for **support during the last year or semester of your graduate program**, please include the following docs to your application: 1. Identity other sources of funding that you have applied for and 2. **Status of these applications** (i.e. pending; approved; denied)

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION REQUIRED

Please send documents as single PDF in the same order as listed above. The recommendation and support letters should be sent directly by email to Patricia Sampaio (psampaio@latam.ufl.edu). If you have any questions email TCD (tcd@latam.ufl.edu).