

Serrapilheira/ICTP-SAIFR Training Program in Quantitative Biology and Ecology

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does the workshop last?

It is a four-week workshop, starting on July 5 and ending on July 30, 2021.

What are the workshop class hours?

It is a full time (morning and afternoon) intensive workshop, from Monday to Friday, with a lunch break and shorter coffee breaks during the day. Participants must be available to dedicate full time to the workshop and to attend all lectures.

Who are the lecturers?

The teaching staff will be made up of scientists who work in world-class research centers from different countries. Not only are our lecturers highly qualified, but their approaches to science show how cutting-edge research is currently conceived and developed. The full list of lecturers is on this webpage.

What topics will be covered?

In addition to immersion in the main topics in biology and ecology, participants will receive training in the use of quantitative methods for solving the most cutting-edge problems in the life sciences. The full list of topics covered in the workshop is on this webpage.

What kind of activities are carried out during the workshop?

The workshop consists of two lectures and a discussion session with each lecturer. At the beginning of the workshop, students will be divided into small groups to work on a project supervised by a post-doctoral researcher. Group work sessions will be scheduled every afternoon. The goal is to apply some of the materials covered in the lectures to a specific research question. The fourth week will be exclusively dedicated to the projects, which will be presented and evaluated on the last day of class, thus bringing the workshop to a close.

Why will the lectures be delivered in English?

As the scientists come from various parts of the world and students are possibly of different nationalities, all lectures will be delivered in English.

How many applicants will be selected?

Up to 50 applicants will be selected to attend the 2021 online workshop.

What are the application requirements?

Applicants must have graduated from an undergraduate program or be planning to do so by December 31, 2021, at an institution of higher education in Brazil or another Latin American country. Those who are already enrolled in a graduate program (either master's or doctoral) are also eligible.

Full command of the English language and, in mathematics, prior knowledge of differential and integral calculus are also required (these skills will be checked during the selection process). Full time dedication and attendance in all activities is mandatory.

Are applications restricted to biologists and mathematicians only?

No. Individuals with an academic background in any knowledge area are welcome. Research experience in the field of biological sciences is not a requirement. However, knowledge of differential and integral calculus is required.

What knowledge level in mathematics (differential and integral calculus) is required?

Capacity to solve integral and differential equations of a single variable and familiarity with differential equations for exponential growth, for instance, is required.

In addition to the formal eligibility criteria, what applicant profiles are you looking for?

We seek ambitious students with quantitative skills who are willing to reach beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries and have a genuine interest in the major questions in the life sciences. Although excellent academic performance is a significant factor in the selection process, we are especially looking for young researchers who show they are capable of tackling challenging tasks with methodological rigor, and have a critical outlook and the ambition to search for progress in the life sciences.

I have an undergraduate degree from a higher education institution in Brazil or another Latin American country, but I am now enrolled in a graduate program outside Latin America. Am I eligible?

Yes. It is enough to have an undergraduate degree from a higher education institution in Brazil or other Latin American country.

How do I apply for the Training Program in Quantitative Biology and Ecology workshop?

Starting March 9, 2021 candidates may apply for the workshop at www.ictp-saifr.org/qbioprogram, by filling out an application form online and submitting the following documents:

- **Curriculum vitae**
In English, not to exceed two pages, in .pdf format.
- **Full undergraduate transcript**

All applicants must submit their undergraduate academic transcript including grades obtained in the courses taken.

- **Graduate transcript**

Applicable only for applicants who are currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program.

- **Letter of Motivation**

The letter of motivation will be critical in the selection process. We recommend candidates to dedicate time and thought to this part of the application. It must be written in English and not exceed 4,000 characters without spaces. The candidate must show affinity with the Training Program in Quantitative Biology and Ecology and point out the reasons they ought to be selected.

- **Names and emails of two senior scientists who will send letters of recommendation**

At this stage the candidate **only** has to list the names of the scientists and their respective email addresses.

I am not eligible, but I would like to sit in as a listener. Is this allowed?

Unfortunately, we have a limited number of participants and it is not possible to have additional openings for students just to listen in.

I am not available every day of the week during the whole time of the workshop.

Can I apply anyway?

No. Students commit to actively participating in classes and the group project throughout the workshop. All classes are mandatory and students with unexcused absences may be dismissed from the workshop.

I am still attending an undergraduate/graduate program. Can I submit an incomplete school transcript?

Yes. In case an applicant has not completed the undergraduate/ graduate program, a school transcript with records of subject grades attended up to that point must be submitted.

Will only the first 500 applicants advance in the selection process?

No. **The first 500 applicants will have priority in the selection process.** Therefore, we recommend applicants to prepare the documents well in advance and be mindful of the date the system will open so that they can submit applications as soon as possible.

Who should write the letter of recommendation for a workshop applicant?

Experienced researchers/professors who are familiar with the applicant's performance as a student/researcher.

Can I speak to someone on the team of the Training Program on Quantitative Biology and Ecology?

You can contact the team at gbioprogram@ictp-saifr.org.

