



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

Call for Postdoctoral Mentors

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The Serrapilheira Institute together with the ICTP South American Institute for Fundamental Research (ICTP-SAIFR) are initiating an ambitious **Training Program in Quantitative Biology and Ecology** which aims to develop a new generation of young Brazilian and Latin American scientists to perform world-class research in biology and ecology using the quantitative methods of mathematics, physics, and computer science. Its first edition will take place as an online workshop from July 5 to July 30, 2021. Please click [here](#) for detailed information on the Program.

In addition to attending lectures by internationally renowned researchers, students in the program will work in small groups on a research project supervised by a postdoctoral mentor.

We are looking for **10 postdoctoral mentors** who will be responsible for proposing and supervising a one-month research project included in the 2021 workshop. Applications are open from March 9 to April 1, 2021.

### 1. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must have already completed their PhD in an area related to quantitative biology/ecology and be familiar with quantitative tools (statistics, differential, and integral calculus) and proficient in English.

### 2. Responsibilities

The mentor's responsibilities will include:

- participation in the first stages of the student selection process between April 20 and May 5, 2021.
- acting as chair in some of the lecture sessions (Each mentor will be required to chair no more than 4 lectures during the workshop. Attendance at lectures in which the mentor is not the chair is voluntary.)
- supervising and mentoring the research project for a small working group of 4-5 students. All students will be familiar with quantitative tools such as differential and integral calculus but will not necessarily be familiar with biology or ecology.

Working group sessions are scheduled for 2 hours every weekday afternoon (16:30 - 18:30 BRT) between July 5-23, and for 2 hours both in the morning (10:00 - 12:00) and in the afternoon (16:30-18:30) during the week of July 26-30. The mentor should attend all working group sessions.

### 3. Stipend

Accepted mentors will receive a single payment of 4000 BRL in compensation for their work and are invited to participate in all online lectures during the program. Although mentors can come from any country, **stipends will only be deposited in Brazilian bank accounts.**

#### 4. Registration

To apply to be a postdoctoral mentor, please visit [www.ictp-saifr.org/qbioprogram](http://www.ictp-saifr.org/qbioprogram) and fill out the online form including:

- **a short CV that emphasizes your previous mentoring experience**  
It must be written in English and not exceed 5 pages.
- **a motivation letter explaining why you should be selected**  
It must be written in English and not exceed 4,000 characters without spaces.
- **email addresses for two academic referees**
- **a proposal on the project you would like to supervise**  
It must be written in English and not exceed 4000 characters without spaces (not including the bibliography)

#### 5. Selection

Applications will be evaluated in two stages by a committee made up of ICTP-SAIFR researchers and members of Instituto Serrapilheira: the first stage will consist of a pre-selection based on the application form and the documents submitted. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by members of the organizing committee.

For informal inquiries, please contact us at: [qbioprogram@ictp-saifr.org](mailto:qbioprogram@ictp-saifr.org).

#### 6. Final considerations

Serrapilheira reserves the right to cancel, suspend, modify, review or postpone the selection process under this call, at any time and its sole discretion, by simply posting an announcement in the same communication channels where this call has been published. No payment or compensation of any sort shall be due to any applicant participating in this call, should it be cancelled, suspended, modified, or postponed.

In order to preserve the unbiased and equitable nature of the criteria guiding the analysis and choice of mentors for the Training Program in Quantitative Biology and Ecology and as a way of preventing potential conflicts of interest and/or breach of the rules under the Serrapilheira Code of Ethics and Conduct, individuals who are married, living under common law marriage, or are kin by blood or affinity, whether by linear, collateral or cross bonds, up to the second degree, with mentors, employees, directors, members of Serrapilheira's Board of Directors and Scientific Advisory Board are not eligible to participate directly or indirectly in the calls for the Program. Deliberate violation of the restriction rule above by anyone qualifying to the Program's calls shall confer the institute, at its sole discretion in terms of convenience and time, the right to exclude the candidate.

Exceptions to the rules provided herein shall be decided by Serrapilheira's Board of Directors.