

Research Scholarship Announcement: Las Hermanas Carpenter Scholarship Fund

The [Crowther Laboratory](#) at the University of ETH Zurich, Switzerland studies global ecosystems, generating knowledge to protect biodiversity and address climate change. Our work is helping create the scientific foundation for ecosystem restoration, informing and empowering people to protect and restore Earth's biodiversity to fight climate change and improve human well-being. The [Global Experiments Network \(GEN\)](#) of the Crowther Lab carries out research on ecological restoration with a current focus on forest restoration across Latin America. Through **Las Hermanas Carpenter Scholarship Fund**, we are offering scholarships to Costa Rican students to carry out graduate research within our specific set of research projects.

Requirements and expectations:

- Scholarship recipients must be enrolled in a graduate program at a national university in Costa Rica at the time at which the scholarship is awarded.
- The research carried out under this scholarship should ideally contribute to meeting the requirements of a graduate degree (Licenciatura, MS or PhD).
- Scholarship recipients are expected to work closely with the scientists at ETH Zurich to learn research techniques, properly collect and manage data, co-create high quality information, and share that information with restoration stakeholders.
- Scholarship recipients must have the written approval of a member of their faculty indicating that the university and their graduate program is aware of, and fully supports, their participation in the research project.
- Scholarship recipients agree to contribute to a respectful, collaborative, and positive work environment that embraces diversity and inclusion.

A note: research indicates that women and individuals from marginalized groups tend to apply only when they meet all of the criteria. If you believe you're qualified, but don't necessarily meet every qualification, we strongly encourage you to submit an application.

Available scholarships

1. Proyecto de Monitoreo Acústico de Biodiversidad

This scholarship includes two components: (i) a three-month participation in a large-scale field project to collect bioacoustics data across Costa Rica for three months from January-March 2024 (\$1000 stipend monthly for 75%-time participation as a research technician), and (ii) a \$3000 scholarship to analyze, interpret, write a report/thesis, and share results on a selected data set generated during the field session as part of graduate work.

During the three-month field campaign, the student will work closely with a team of researchers and technicians to carry out an ambitious project collecting bioacoustics data at PSA sites across Costa Rica. This is a great opportunity to learn about bioacoustics data and how to carry out large-scale field campaigns.

Following successful participation in the field campaign and demonstration of commitment to utilize a subset of the results, a \$3000 scholarship will be available to support using the data to satisfy graduate research requirements.

- **Dates for participation in field campaign: January – March 2024.**
- **Applications for the Proyecto de Monitoreo Acústico de Biodiversidad Scholarship are due by Nov 1, 2023.**
- **[See page 3 below for more details and how to apply.](#)**

2. Seed dispersal to restoration sites across southern Costa Rica

This scholarship enables a student to participate in a large-scale research project testing how different levels of planted tree diversity affect the arrival of animal-dispersed seeds in 4 distinct forest ecosystems ranging from lowland to montane tropical forest. This is component of a larger established study testing how specific plant characteristics or “functional traits” of trees planted for restoration affect ecosystem recovery.

We are recruiting a graduate student to collaborate in a 1-year study of seed dispersal. The student will work with our skilled research team to set out seed traps at multiple field sites, collect seeds, learn to identify seed species, and analyses and interpret data leading to writing and publication of a scientific article. The project already counts with a skilled technician to support the field work and to teach seed identification.

The project can be accommodated to academic and planned visits to the field sites. The scholarship recipient is expected to participate in field work during planned visits throughout the year while seed identification work can be done from any location. Lab space, laboratory equipment and lodging can be provided by one of our partner organizations, the Loma Linda Field Station.

The \$6000 scholarship can be used to cover expenses for field and research equipment, travel, food, lodging and personal logistics related to data collection, data analysis and writing.

- **Project start dates can be either in January or June of 2024 and are expected to run for 1 year from the start date.**
- **Applications for the Proyecto de Monitoreo Acústico de Biodiversidad Scholarship are due by Nov 15, 2023.**
- **[See page 4 below for more details and how to apply.](#)**

Detalles: (1) Proyecto de Monitoreo Acústico de Biodiversidad

Estamos buscando un estudiante que liderará un proyecto de investigación en conjunto con el esfuerzo de monitoreo más amplio del Laboratorio Crowther. The student will be supervised directly by candidato a doctorado, Giacomo Delgado during the field campaign and by Drs. Rebecca Cole and Leland Werden for the thesis component. Upon successful participation in the data collection campaign for the larger Project, the student will have the option to select a portion of the data to use for their thesis under the second part of the scholarship.

Requisitos:

- Una licencia de conducir válida
- Computador portátil
- Buena condición física
- Competencia básica en tecnología y comodidad para trabajar con hardware
- Fuertes habilidades organizativas y capacidad para gestionar su tiempo de manera autónoma y cumplir con los plazos
- Capacidad para adaptarse a condiciones de trabajo cambiantes
- Experiencia en trabajo de campo ecológico y de campo
- Estar matriculado en un programa de ecología nivel licenciatura, maestría o doctorado
- Able to register with Hacienda as an independent contractor and comply with all legal requirements for contract work

Preferible:

- Se consideran con preferencia los aplicantes con acceso a un automóvil capaz de manejar condiciones de carretera difíciles.
- Fuertes habilidades interpersonales y de comunicación.
- Capacidad para comunicarse cómodamente en inglés.

Compensación:

Estipendio de 1000+ USD al mes por tres meses. Recompensaremos los gastos de gasolina.

How to apply:

Enviar por correo electrónico los siguientes documentos:

1. Un currículum vitae actualizado que incluya detalles sobre la educación, experiencia laboral y habilidades relacionadas con el puesto.
2. Carta de presentación, en la cual se indique el interés en el puesto, se resalten las cualidades y experiencias relevantes, y se explique cómo se ajusta a los requisitos y responsabilidades del cargo.
3. Un ejemplo de su escritura científica, como un artículo de investigación, tesis o informe técnico or paper for a course.
4. Contact information for at least two professional references including a faculty member at your university or a previously attended university

Enviar la solicitud completa por correo electrónico a ambos no later than Nov 1, 2023: giacomo.delgado@usys.ethz.ch y rebecca@crowtherlab.com con asunto: "Solicitud para Investigador en Proyecto en el Monitoreo Acústico de Biodiversidad".

Detalles: (2) Seed dispersal to restoration sites across southern Costa Rica

We are recruiting a graduate student to collaborate in a 1-year study of seed dispersal. The student will work with our skilled research team to set out seed traps at multiple field sites, collect seeds, learn to identify seed species, and analyses and interpret data leading to writing and publication of a scientific article. The project already counts with a skilled technician to support the field work and to teach seed identification. The field sites are located at [La Gamba Tropical Station](#), [Loma Linda Field Station](#), [Asociacion Ambienta Finca Cantaros](#), and [Finca Aguas Buenas](#). The student will receive mentoring and work closely with Drs. [Rebecca Cole](#) and [Leland Werden](#) of the Crowther Lab as well as the GEN project coordinator, [Gerald Quiros](#).

Requisitos:

- Be enrolled in a graduate program at the time that the scholarship is awarded (Jan or June of 2024)
- Have the support of the faculty of your department regarding the requirement of the scholarship and the course of research of this project
- Have enthusiasm and ability for field work in difficult terrain and remote areas
- Work well with a team and have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Be a hard worker and demonstrate a strong ability to learn and take project to completion

How to apply:

1. Curriculum vitae
2. A letter of interest where you show your previous experience in ecology, field work, and let us know why you are interested in this particular project
3. The contact details for three professional references. One must be from a faculty member in your department at your university.

Email the three items of your application by Nov 15, 2023 to: Dr. Rebecca Cole at rebecca@crowtherlab.com.

Candidates will be invited to an interview in mid-December, 2023.

Questions? Feel free to email either Dr. Rebecca Cole at rebecca@crowtherlab.com or Project coordinator, Gerald Quiros at gerald@crowtherlab.com.