2014 CALL FOR PROPOSALS
TROPICAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIPS

Deadline: Friday, February 21, 2014, at 5:00 pm EST

The Tropical Resources Institute announces its 2014 Call for Proposals, for both TRI Endowment Fellowships and the Sri Lanka Forest Conservation Fund at Yale (see p. 4). The Tropical Resources Institute, or TRI, is an interdisciplinary, non-degree-granting center located within the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The mission of TRI is to support interdisciplinary, problem-oriented student research on the most complex challenges confronting the conservation and management of tropical environments and natural resources worldwide. TRI’s Endowed Fellowship Program is designed to support Master’s and Doctoral level research in tropical countries. Each year TRI provides funding and logistical support for approximately 20 – 30 students at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. TRI awards are restricted to F&ES students and students in joint programs with F&ES (e.g., the joint IR Master’s degree, and the joint Anthropology Doctoral degree). Following the mission of F&ES, these projects are interdisciplinary in nature and cover a wide range of issues that surround the study, management, and conservation of tropical resources. TRI encourages natural and social science research.

I. GUIDELINES

1. Eligibility: All Master’s and Doctoral students currently enrolled at F&ES who will also be enrolled at F&ES in the fall of 2014 are eligible to apply to the TRI fellowship program. Students may only apply once during their Master’s or Ph.D. program. TRI Fellowships are open to U.S. and non-U.S. citizens. Note: If you are a Doctoral student, please make it clear whether you are applying for funds to support dissertation or pre-dissertation work.

TRI supports research in tropical, less-developed countries. Applications to work in sub-tropical regions, or in developed countries in tropical regions, will be considered on a case-by-case basis as resources permit.

2. Proposal evaluation: Proposals are evaluated by the TRI steering committee on the basis of their importance to our understanding of the social and ecological dimensions, and the conservation and management, of the tropical environment; and the soundness and feasibility of the proposed methodologies. Applicants will be notified of the committee’s decision in early to mid April.

3. The award: TRI generally awards fellowships ranging from $3,000 to $5,000. Applicants are expected to apply for matching funds from other sources at Yale and will be marked down if they do not. Successful applicants are responsible for completing their research as described in their proposal, and for notifying TRI of any substantial changes in their project design.
4. **Application process:** Students must submit applications for TRI Fellowships through the Yale Student Grants Database [http://studentgrants.yale.edu/](http://studentgrants.yale.edu/). Search for keyword TRI FELLOWSHIPS.

Please note that the Yale Student Grants Database website is in a period of transition. An initial search for TRI Fellowships may display last year’s application deadlines and information. The correct information for the 2014 fellowship cycle is listed when you have clicked through the blue “View Grant” Button to the final fellowship description. **The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 21st, 2014, at 5:00 pm EST.**

Applicants must discuss their proposals with an F&ES faculty member/advisor, whose approval of the submitted proposal must be certified by the applicant on the application. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to discuss their proposals with an in-country sponsor or collaborator.

5. **Questions:** If applicants have any questions about the TRI proposal process, Master’s students should contact the TRI Program Managers, Dana Graef (dana.graef@yale.edu) and Jeff Stoike (jeffrey.stoike@yale.edu) or make an appointment to stop by the TRI office, which is located at 301 Prospect Street, Room 202. Doctoral students should contact the TRI Director, Michael R. Dove (michael.dove@yale.edu) or come by during office hours.

**II. THE PROPOSAL**

The proposal should be single-spaced and written in Times New Roman 12-point font with 1-inch margins, and adhere to page limits as described below. Excess pages will be discarded! Final proposals must include the following:


2. **Proposal Narrative** (2 pp. maximum, excess pages will be discarded). The proposal narrative should include the following sections:

   **A. Problem statement, research questions, and research objectives:** Define the problem you propose to examine and explain why it is important. Your research question should develop logically from the problem statement, and your research objectives should develop logically from the research question. Be realistic about what you can achieve in the timeframe that you have to conduct your research.

   **B. Literature review:** The literature review should show how your proposed research fits into the larger theoretical frameworks or debates within the field of study and/or what practical solution will result from it.

   **C. Field site selection and justification:** Describe your field site and explain why it is an appropriate location in which to pursue your research questions. If specific sites cannot be selected until you are in the field, describe how those sites will eventually be selected.
D. Methodology: Make a clear and realistic connection between your research questions and the methods and analyses that you will use to answer them. Be specific and concrete about what methods you will employ once you get to your field site.

E. Personal qualifications and research collaborations: Describe what relevant language and technical skills you possess. (Lack of appropriate language training, in any research involving human subjects, will disqualify proposals.) Describe any planned collaboration or affiliation with other researchers or organizations, local or otherwise.

Note: Please do not attach a separate bibliography; in text citations are sufficient (i.e., Author Year). Do not include additional pages of footnotes, tables, figures, or other materials; you must adhere to the 2-page limit.

3. Budget and Timeline:

A. Itemized Project Budget: Using the Excel form provided at http://www.environment.yale.edu/tri/fellowships/tri-fellowship-grants/, list all significant project expenses, including airfare, in-country transportation, room and board, equipment, supplies, stipends for field or research assistants, sample analysis, and other research expenses. Inadmissible expenses include applicant salaries or stipends, and the cost of expensive equipment such as laptops and cameras. TRI will not fund equipment over $200. If you are applying to multiple Yale sources (as you should be), include the whole project budget and potential sources, as well as the amount you are requesting from TRI. Please note that your budget totals submitted to TRI and other Yale funding sources must match.

B. Research Schedule (1 p.): Describe your timeline for accomplishing the activities described in your proposal. A table, with a list of tasks in the left hand column and a list of months across the top can be an effective means of displaying this information.

III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Applicants must demonstrate language competency for international research. Proposals by students without such competency usually encounter difficulties, not just at TRI but across the university.

2. By the start of the Spring semester, prospective applicants whose research involves interviews or other work with human subjects should also be working to obtain Human Subjects Committee approval, or waivers, for their research from the Institutional Review Board. See the following two pages for more information: Getting Started (http://www.yale.edu/hrpp/responsibility/start.html) and Forms, Templates, and Instructions (http://www.yale.edu/hrpp/forms-templates/behavioral.html).

3. Funding from the TRI Endowment Fellowship may only be used to cover expenses associated with summer research projects and is not available to cover any preliminary expenses, including
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mid-year travel to field sites, incurred by students in the development of their individual projects. Nor are TRI funds available for travel during the academic year to meetings, etc.

4. Further information about TRI, including descriptions of past Fellows’ research, is available at https://environment.yale.edu/tri/.

SRI LANKA FOREST CONSERVATION FUND AT YALE

Deadline: Friday, February 21, 2014, at 5:00 pm EST

Two $5,000 conservation and development internships are available to conduct research at the Field Center for the Sri Lanka Program in Forest Conservation. The Sri Lanka Program in Forest Conservation is dedicated to understanding and developing technologies around rain forest conservation and community development in and around the Sinharaja World Heritage Site and Man and the Biosphere Reserve in southwest Sri Lanka. This rain forest has a flora and fauna that has 70% endemicity, and is the most biologically diverse forest in South Asia. Traditional Sinhala Villages surrounding the rain forest cultivate some of the most diverse tree gardens in the world producing a variety of foods, medicinals, and spices. Resource issues and area of disciplinary focus concern water resources, conservation, taxonomy, community development, climate change, restoration, non-timber forest products, ayurvedic medicine, mythology, human ecology, energy systems, resource economics, silviculture, and ecology. Proposals are to be submitted using the same deadlines, guidelines and format as for the Tropical Resources Institute Fellowship. The field center is a state of the art research facility that is self-sufficient in energy through solar and microhydro power. It is adjacent to the Sinharaja rain forest and immediately upstream of a traditional village. The Center comprises 50 acres of cinnamon plantation, riparian forests, streams, wetlands and second growth forest that can be used for experimental plantings and treatments. Please see Dana Graef, Mark Ashton, or Michael R. Dove for details.

Applicants for the Sri Lanka Forest Conservation Fund are strongly encouraged to meet with Mark Ashton prior to submitting their applications to the Tropical Resources Institute.