

**McMASTER UNIVERSITY**  
**Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology**

<b>Course Title:</b>	Tropical Ecology Research
<b>Instructor(s):</b>	Jurek Kolasa
<b>Dates:</b>	Dec 28, 2018-Jan 11, 2019
<b>Location:</b>	Discovery Bay Marine Lab, Jamaica
<b>Cost:</b>	\$2000 (estimated for Jamaica accommodation, meals, & lab fees)
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	At least one ecology course
<b>Enrolment*:</b>	15 (4 reserved for McMaster University)
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b></p> <p>Students should normally be entering the 3rd or 4th year of a Biology Honours (Zoology, Ecology, or Botany) program, have at least one ecology course beyond the fundamental level and must have taken an introductory biometry or statistics course.</p> <p><b>Course Description:</b></p> <p>Small team research projects on ecology of marine and coastal organisms in the area of field laboratory at the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory, Jamaica. Emphasis will be on distribution and community structure of coral reef fish, sea urchins, sponges, corals, and other invertebrates as well as aquatic plants. Projects on ecology of shore crabs, mollusks, insects, and coastal plants or stream ecology are also possible. <u>Only certified SCUBA divers will be allowed to undertake underwater projects</u> (see <a href="#">Project Ideas</a> for examples). All students must sign relevant waivers prior to departure. For detailed information see <a href="#">Personal Safety</a>.</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <p>Students will submit a two-page Research Proposal by Nov 03, 2018 after consultation with the instructor. Acceptance of this proposal by the instructor is a condition of participation in the field work. Students will present their projects during evening seminars. Field work progress will also be required in the second week of the course. Four weeks after the field module students will submit <u>individual</u> Final Reports in the format of a paper for the journal of ECOLOGY.</p>
<b>Evaluation:</b>	Log book (10%), field effort and initiative (20%), on-site ID quiz (10%), final paper (60%). Note that the research proposal does not earn marks - it is mandatory. However, <b>failure to produce an acceptable and timely proposal will result in a heavy lost of marks</b> from the final grade.

\*\*\*\$350 Deposit is due at time of registration.

Tuition at your home institution is *in addition* to any field module costs.

Students who drop a field course should not expect a refund of any field course costs.

Students are encouraged to purchase cancellation insurance if airline tickets are required.

Students are responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.