

OTS SPECIALTY COURSE:  
**THE ECOLOGY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE TROPICS AND SUBTROPICS**

In June to July, 2014 Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, Chinese Academy of Sciences (XTBG-CAS), will host an entirely new training course, on *"The Ecology of Climate Change in the Tropics and Sub-Tropics"*. This course has been developed as collaboration between XTBG-CAS and the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). This course emerged from an NSF-funded workshop in Costa Rica in June 2013.

Southeast Asian forests have already been greatly impacted by rapid deforestation as a result of population growth and economic development. The growing risks to these threatened ecosystems from the impacts of climate change will be the focus of this new program bringing together participants and experts from five continents.

The course will bring together experts from around the world to teach different aspects of climate change ecology, from practical, theoretical and social perspectives. It will use a mix of lectures on theory with practical field experiences on methods in a range of very different ecosystems across Yunnan Province, Southwest China. The course will encompass cutting-edge techniques and research technologies, and multiple perspectives on the interaction between climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem function. Topics will range from prediction (model-based approaches) to empirical research on species physiologies and a timeframe from the Eocene to the future. Participants will be given the tools and insights to understand, interpret, evaluate and develop studies that integrate interdisciplinary forms of data to gain new



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**WHEN:** June 16 - July 16, 2014.

**WHERE:** Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, China.

insights into the ecology of climate change. Students will also develop and carry out their own independent research projects.

The course will take place at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, the premier tropical research centre in China, and will include field-trips to tropical and subtropical forests, savanna, and a variety of agro-ecosystems. The steep climatic gradients in Yunnan make this the ideal place for the study of climate change ecology. XTBG (with the nearby CFS forest dynamics plot at Bubang) represents the northern margin of the Southeast Asian tropics and is the largest botanical garden in China. Ailaoshan is covered in extensive montane subtropical forests and associated vegetation types, whereas Yuanjiang supports savanna vegetation in a hot, dry, rain-shadow valley. All three sites are part of the ASIAFLUX network and have long-term climatic records.

Participants will be graduate students and early-career researchers from the New and Old-World tropics, with students from Latin America, the USA and Southeast Asia brought together for the first course of its kind. The language of instruction will be English, in which the students must demonstrate proficiency.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be either a graduate student or post-doc currently enrolled at a university.

Students from China and SE Asia should apply to XTBG directly, following instructions available at the PFS website: [www.pfs-tropasia.org/](http://www.pfs-tropasia.org/)

Students from the United States and Latin America should apply to OTS. Students from OTS consortium schools and institutions from the Tropical Andes Alliance are eligible to apply. For U.S. students, applications should be submitted by e-mail simultaneously to one of your OTS Delegates and to the OTS office at Duke University. Delegates will review the application and provide an email endorsement to OTS prior to the deadline. Therefore, applicants should submit their application to their delegate a few days before the deadline. There are two delegates at each OTS-member institution and their names can be found on the OTS website ([www.ots.ac.cr](http://www.ots.ac.cr)). Applications should be sent to [otsadmissions@duke.edu](mailto:otsadmissions@duke.edu)

Applicants must be eligible to obtain a visa to the Peoples Republic of China. U.S. and Latin American students must provide proof of health insurance applicable to foreign travel.

U.S. student must pay for their visa to China. Students from Latin America can request support for their visa application.



### **TUITION:**

Funding from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Science Foundation will cover the cost of airfare, and the course expenses except for personal incidental expenses.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

[otsadmissions@duke.edu](mailto:otsadmissions@duke.edu)

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

Complete applications must be received by February 25, 2014.  
Final acceptance decision will be made by March 10, 2014.

OTS Central American Office:

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