

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

A full-time position in the BFREE Fellowship Program is now available. The current opening is for a **Wildlife Fellow** assigned to BFREE's Hicatee Conservation and Research Center.

The **BFREE Science and Education Fellows Program** is a two-year immersive work-training opportunity for recent Belizean junior college and college graduates who exhibit leadership potential combined with a clear interest in the conservation of the country's natural resources.

By working in the field alongside seasoned professionals on a daily basis, BFREE Fellows have the opportunity to become budding experts in their area of focus. Fellows are based at the BFREE Field Station and Privately Protected Area which adjoins close to 1.5 million acres of lowland tropical rainforest. BFREE is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the Maya Mountains Massif through environmental education, outreach, training, and research.

The current opening is for the **Hicatee Conservation program** and the Fellow will therefore be assigned to the Hicatee Conservation & Research Center (HCRC).

Compensation and Schedule:

Fellows receive a regular salary, room and board, and a two-week vacation after one year of work. Fellows live at BFREE from Monday through Friday during their work shift.

Eligibility:

Candidates must have completed a degree at the Junior College or University level, have a strong interest in the conservation of Belize's natural resources, be committed to a strict work program in a remote rainforest environment, and have strong references from their academic advisors and past employers.

This job is a balance between the administrative and physical tasks that are required to successfully run a program in a remote and wild location. Successful candidates must:

- Be citizens of Belize
- Be fluent in English
- Have completed junior college or higher
- Be in the early stage of their career, with some volunteer and practical experience
- Have an interest in becoming a leader in conservation efforts for Belize
- Have a strong interest in reptiles and be comfortable handling and caring for turtles
- Be capable of doing physically taxing work to care for captive turtles and assist in maintaining the facility on a daily basis

This is a competitive application process. BFREE selects candidates based on their academic achievements, level of scientific competence, aptitude for conservation, leadership potential, likelihood of bringing back new ideas to their community, and flexibility and aptitude for success in a cross-cultural and ever-changing environment.

Description of Work:

Primary duties at the Hicatee Conservation and Research Center (HCRC) for your work assignment will include but are not limited to:

- Assist in the daily activities at the HCRC including feeding, facility maintenance, and cleaning the area.
- Implement daily responsibilities when the HCRC manager is in the field doing research.
- Assist in field research.
- Collect data like growth rates, egg production, water temperature, etc
- Document activities taking place at the HCRC with writing and photographs leading to the creation of bi-annual reports.
- Develop and implement presentations relating to the Hicatee Program for BFREE visitors including students and researchers from Belize and abroad.
- Assist in the writing and submission of abstracts for local, regional and international conferences and symposia.
- Assist in the writing of scientific publications.
- Help prepare for and participate in bi-annual health assessments of all captive turtles.
- Support the implementation of Hicatee Awareness Month and other outreach.

Application Requirements:

Applications are due by May 15, 2024. Successful applicants will be required to interview via phone and then in-person. Applicant finalists will be invited to spend one trial week of work to determine suitability for living and working at BFREE.

To apply, email Heather Barrett at jobs@bfreebz.org. The following complete information is required to be considered:

- Letter of interest and description of relevant experience with a paragraph detailing why you believe you can be successful in a remote, jungle environment
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official copy of transcript for college/university degree received
- Copy of social security card