



## **COMPARATIVE TEMPERATE-TROPICAL ECOLOGY & BIOGEOGRAPHY**

**28 June - 17 July 2018**

*A joint summer 2018 field course between Highlands Biological Station  
and Wildsumaco Biological Station*

### **Course Costs and Application & Payment Information**

#### **I. Course costs**

The total estimated cost for the course per student is **\$3400**, and may be subject to go up or down contingent upon total course enrollment and airfare. The estimated cost includes:

1. Course tuition and registration (academic credit available through WCU)
2. Room at Highlands Biological Station, June 28 - July 5
3. RT airfare to Quito, Ecuador (see special instructions below)
4. All ground transportation in NC
5. All ground transportation in Ecuador
6. Lodging at hotel San Carlos de Tababela, Quito (double occupancy, July, 6, 7, and 16).
7. Full day at Antisana Volcano, including breakfast and lunch, July 7
8. Room and Board at Wildsumaco Biological Station, July 8 - July 16
9. Travel and health insurance for Ecuador travel

Costs do not include:

- Meals at HBS (self-serve kitchens are available in all residences)
- Personal expenses
- Dinner in Quito on July, 6, 7, and 16
- Meals on final travel day (July 17)
- Passport

#### **II. Application and course payment**

1. Students will register for this course via the HBS 2018 summer on-line application. To access the application, please go to: <http://highlandsbiological.org/summercourses/> and scroll to the "Apply" link. Follow all application instructions. (Please note, HBS financial aid is unavailable for this course.) Application materials will be reviewed by the course instructors.

2. Once accepted into the course, you will be sent an email containing:

A. Course payment instructions, information pertaining to your stay at HBS, and additional Highlands-Ecuador course information. Note that all course fees \*exclusive of airfare are due upon acceptance into the course. (See instructions below for flight booking and payment information.)

B. A link to an online form for WCU's International Programs & Services office. This form will give IPS the information they need to purchase the mandatory Health Insurance and Travel Insurance for course participants.

### **III. Special procedures regarding flight booking and payment**

We will travel to Ecuador as a group, which means we will all be on the same flight to Quito. Depending on departure airport (Asheville, NC, Charlotte, NC, Greenville-Spartanburg, SC, or Atlanta, GA) this may be a non-stop or 1-stop flight. Airfares are subject to change without notice, which means that we cannot collect airfare payments in advance and book the flights on behalf of course participants. Accordingly, we are working with a third-party travel agent who will be monitoring airfares, and will hopefully be able to find a favorable group rate for us. Course participants will be given instructions for booking their flight individually with the agent.

Working with the agent, we will first identify a target date for booking the flights and will notify course participants of this date in advance. Reservations can be held for 24 hours. Once a reservation is made participants will be notified and given the agent's contact information; they will then have 24 h to contact the agent and pay for their flight. Participants missing this window may not get a seat on the group flight, so it will be important for participants to be diligent about contacting the agent and booking their flight.

#### **Questions?**

For questions about course registration or staying at HBS, please contact Katie Cooke at 828.526.2602, [kfcooke@email.wcu.edu](mailto:kfcooke@email.wcu.edu). For all other inquiries about the Highlands Biological Station–Wildsumaco Biological Station course, please contact HBS director and course co-instructor Dr. James Costa at 828.787.1712, [costa@email.wcu.edu](mailto:costa@email.wcu.edu).