



Biodiversity Conservation Academy 17-21 January 2011

The Biodiversity Conservation Academy is a joint venture between the Centre of Excellence at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute at the University of Cape Town and the Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at the University of Stellenbosch. Each year it gives talented undergraduate students the opportunity to learn more about research and career opportunities in biodiversity conservation and to experience the dynamic postgraduate research and teaching environments at our Centres of Excellence.

We invite undergraduate students who are currently completing their second or third year Bachelor of Science studies to participate in the 2011 Biodiversity Conservation Academy, which will be held from 17 to 21 January 2011 at the Potberg Environmental Education Centre in the Western Cape. The Academy will include five days of coursework with a strong fieldwork component, jointly presented by the staff of the two Centres. The course will focus on linking biological theory with practical application, with a particular reference to designing and conducting biodiversity research projects. Topics to be covered include the philosophy of science, understanding and applying the scientific method, how to set about identifying a research question, developing a set of hypotheses and designing an experimental approach to test the hypotheses. A report on the 2010 Academy can be found at the web addresses: <http://www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za/pdf/bioacad10.pdf> and http://www.sun.ac.za/cib/events/Academy_report_2010.pdf.

Up to fifteen students will be selected to attend the Academy. The Academy will cover transport costs between Cape Town and the field site as well as all accommodation costs. The Academy will also cover transport costs between your home town and Cape Town if you are unable to finance your own transport to Cape Town.

To apply, please send a one-page covering letter explaining why you would like to attend the Academy, your CV including all personal details, a certified copy of your academic record and a short essay (maximum two pages) on any topic relevant to biological conservation. Send your application to either of the contact people below. Please be sure to also include your home contact details (telephone number or regularly checked email address) so that you can be contacted during the end of year period. **Applications close on 23 September 2010.**

Contact persons:

Ms Sarah Davies DST-NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology University of Stellenbosch Private Bag X1 Matieland 7602 E-mail: sdavies@sun.ac.za Tel: 021 808-3922	Mrs Tania Jansen DST-NRF Centre of Excellence at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute University of Cape Town Private Bag X3 Rondebosch 7701 E-mail: Tania.Jansen@uct.ac.za Tel: 021 650-2896
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The Centres reserve the right not to hold the Academy in 2011 if an insufficient number of suitable applications are received.