



THE SCHOOL
FOR FIELD STUDIES

National Academic Coordinator– Himalayan Studies

(Bhutan)

The SFS program on Eastern Himalayan Forests and Rural Livelihoods (summer) and *Himalayan Environment and Society in Transition (fall semester)*, located in Bhutan seeks an enthusiastic, team-oriented individual to serve as part of a residential team of faculty and staff that delivers an interdisciplinary, hands-on learning experience to students spending a semester abroad. Partnering with the Bhutanese Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE), this program will present a rich learning landscape for students exploring people's relationship with the environment and conservation.

Institutional Missions:

SFS creates transformative study abroad experiences through field-based learning and research. Our educational programs explore the human and ecological dimensions of the complex environmental problems faced by our local partners, contributing to sustainable solutions in the places where we live and work. The SFS community is part of a growing network of individuals and institutions committed to environmental stewardship.

UWICE is a Bhutanese Government based research and training institute that strives to foster better stewardship of our natural heritage – land, water, air and species therein – through rigorous science based research and transmission of cutting-edge science results to field practitioners, environmental leaders and policy makers.

Program Focus:

In 2008, the Kingdom of Bhutan shifted the government structure from a monarchy to a constitutional democratic monarchy, opening the door for devolution of authority over natural resources, among other things, to regional governments and communities. Because the majority of Bhutanese reside in rural areas and depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods, the sustainable management of natural resources is critical for achieving the four pillars of Gross National Happiness. In collaboration with UWICE, SFS students and faculty help advance Bhutan's research agenda in several priority areas, including community forestry, human-wildlife interactions, and biodiversity conservation.

Applicants are encouraged to review program information on the SFS website:

<http://www.fieldstudies.org/bhutan>

Program Schedule and Locations:

Faculty and staff are required to report to the site in May 2015 (date to be determined) for preparation for the six-week summer program which takes place June 8 – July 16, with a debrief/planning period following the close of the program. The summer program is located at the UWICE center in Bumthang with field excursions and mini-treks to surrounding areas.

Faculty are required to report in August 2015 (date to be determined) for preparation for the semester-long program which will take place September 7 – December 10, 2015. This program will initially be located at the UWICE center in Bumthang and moved to a lower elevation in Zhemgang as the weather grows colder. The semester program will also include field excursions and mini-treks to surrounding areas.

Position Summary:

Serve as part of a residential team of faculty and staff that delivers an interdisciplinary, hands-on learning experience to students spending a summer or semester abroad.

Under the oversight of the Program Director, the National Academic Coordinator (NAC) will assist in providing high quality, modern and experiential teaching in critical environmental issues in an interdisciplinary curriculum, and participate fully in the implementation of the program's research plan that addresses these issues.

The NAC is responsible for overall support of the academic program and will work with the Co-Program Director, faculty, and UWICE Coordinator in the preparation and delivery of all program courses. For course descriptions, please visit <http://www.fieldstudies.org/bhutan/>. *The primary goal of this position is to work closely with faculty to incorporate the Bhutanese perspectives and approaches to ecology, conservation and sustainable development into courses.* The NAC may, on occasion, with supervision of a faculty member, deliver individual lectures as well as design and lead field exercises.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Academic Programming

- Assist faculty in obtaining course readings & materials
- Work with faculty during course preparation to ensure the incorporation of Bhutanese perspectives
- Identify and coordinate guest lectures in consultation with faculty and UWICE
- Assist and occasionally lead field exercises
- Conduct logistical support for all courses
- Create new field exercises, setting, tasks, objectives, etc.
- Coordinate and communicate scheduling of program to students as needed
- Oversee dissemination of readings & course materials to students
- Participate in planning activities prior to program start and in review post-program

- Participate in preparation of final reports and Center field preparation guide revisions
- As requested by the Co-Program Director, assist with other logistical and administrative tasks

Directed Research

- Assist in the development & planning of DR
- Facilitate students' DR through oversight of research proposal, data collection & interpretation, and presentation
- Assist managing pre-DR site logistics (housing, facilities, local events, community awareness, etc.)

Community Outreach

- Work with Student Affairs Manager and UWICE to develop and implement community outreach activities
- Work with the Student Affairs Manager and UWICE to arrange recreational programming for students within the local community
- At all times, work to ensure good relations between the Center and local community

Daily Centre Life

- Adhere to, actively model, and enforce all school-wide, Center, and UWICE rules and policies
- Take part in, and occasionally lead, Center upkeep projects, social, and field activities
- Drive standard transmission vehicles as needed

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability to obtain Bhutanese work authorization required
- Clean driving record and able to operate manual transmission vehicles
- M.A./M.S. with previous teaching experience required
- Extensive group and student facilitation experience
- High emotional and cross-cultural intelligence
- Field-based research experience in environmental sciences
- Ease with living communally and using shared facilities

Preferred Qualifications:

- Background in experiential educational programming
- Experience living, working, or studying in Bhutan & USA
- Familiarity with wilderness, travel, or tropical medicine
- Conversational ability in Dzongkha or Bumthapkha

Other Expectations:

- Willingness to work flexible hours with a small team of permanent staff, groups of US undergraduate students and visiting researchers or programs
- Participate in the residential campus activities and community outreach
- Represent SFS at local and international conferences
- At all times, work to ensure good relations between the SFS and the local community

To Apply:

Please submit your cover letter and resume online. For questions about the position, please email jobs@fieldstudies.org. No phone calls please. **Deadline for applying is March 30th.**

Compensation/Benefits:

This is a contract position starting in early May 2015 and ending in mid-December 2015 with continuance depending on successful completion of duties and sufficient student enrollment. Salary is contingent on experience and qualifications.

Location:

Bumthang and Zhemgang, Bhutan

Reports to:

SFS Co-Program Director. The NAC will also report to UWICE on any issue that may have potential administrative and legal implications on UWICE.