
CANADIAN ECOHEALTH TRAINING AND AWARDS PROGRAM: ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health (CoPEH-Canada) is an initiative funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The CoPEH-Canada is a collaboration between five Canadian universities (University of British Columbia, University of Northern British Columbia, University of Guelph, Université du Québec à Montréal and the Université de Moncton), whose primary objective is to promote and support research, education, policy, creativity, scholarship critical thinking, and practice in ecosystem approaches to health¹. The CoPEH-Canada website (www.copeh-canada.org) provides additional information about the community of practice and CoPEH-Canada project.

As part of the educational mandate of this initiative, CoPEH-Can will be hosting an 11-day, bilingual short course entitled *Ecosystem Approaches to Health* (Ecohealth) **in Montreal, Québec at the Université du Québec à Montréal from June 2 to June 13, 2010**. A maximum of twenty-five participants will be accepted into the 2010 short course, including up to twenty graduate students from any graduate programme, including Arts, Science, etc. (eligible for “Graduate Training Awards”) and up to five career development positions for those actively working in a field in which ecosystem approaches can be applied (eligible for “Career Development Training”).

This course will be held in a French-speaking environment. Some of the sessions in the course will be given in French, others will be given in English. It is essential that all participants in the course understand AND read both languages. All participants will be encouraged to express themselves in either French or English, according to their preference.

For Graduate Students – The CoPEH-Can Ecohealth Training and Awards Program is pleased to offer two types of award:

- **Graduate Training Awards** will offer twenty (20) awards of \$1000 to help cover the costs for graduate students to attend the *Ecosystem Approaches to Health* Short Course. Graduate awardees will not be charged registration to attend the course. The call for applications for Graduate Training Awards will run from **February 19 to March 19, 2010**.
- **Ecohealth Research Awards** will offer four (4) awards of a maximum of \$17,500 to cover justifiable field work (in a variety of settings, including, theatre production, music, editorial work in a publication house, nursing, among many, many others) and conference/dissemination expenses. Awards cannot be used to pay tuition fees but may be held concurrently with other awards. This research has to integrate an ecohealth approach, to be associated with the student’s graduate program and take place in a developing country or in a development context in Canada. The call for applications for Research Awards will be in June 2010 and will only be open to those who received a Graduate Training Award and attended the short course.

All graduate students interested in the *Ecosystem Approaches to Health* short course should apply for the Training Awards to attend the short course. Upon completing the short course, students with a serious interest in integrating an ecosystem approach into their research, analysis and practice in a developing country or in a development context in Canada will have the opportunity to complete a second and separate application for the Ecohealth Research Awards. Only those who have received a Graduate Training Award and completed the short course will be eligible to apply for an Ecohealth Research Award.

¹ taking *health* in the very broadest senses of the term: human, animal, environmental but also social, physiological, cultural and imaginary health.

For those interested in Career Development – The CoPEH-Can is also pleased to offer:

- **Career Development Training** for up to five (5) professionals who are actively working in the field to participate in the *Ecosystem Approaches to Health* short course. Those applying for career development training are not eligible to receive a Graduate Training Award. Career Development Trainees will be expected to cover travel and accommodation. The registration costs are \$750 for the 11-day short course. (In exceptional cases the \$750 registration fee can be waived.) The call for applications for Career Development Training will run from **February 19 to March 19, 2010**.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for the Graduate Training Awards must meet the following criteria for eligibility:

- Be able to understand AND read both French and English and to express oneself in one or the other of the two. (This course is BILINGUAL: some classes will be given in French and others in English);
- hold Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status in Canada, or hold citizenship of a developing country;
- be registered in or accepted to a graduate program (Masters/PhD or residency) at a recognized Canadian university;
- have an active research or development project, or be developing a proposal for an upcoming project;
- be able to show a demonstrated interest in ecosystem approaches to complex health problems and the relevance of these approaches to their current and future research and scholarship.

N.B.: Consideration may be given to applicants with special circumstances; please write to us to explain the exact circumstances at the correspondence address below.

NB.: Training Awards are not restricted to any specific discipline and students from all areas including natural sciences, health sciences, humanities, social sciences, traditional knowledge and arts are welcome to apply.

Applicants for the Graduate Research Awards must meet the above eligibility requirements plus have successfully completed the *Ecosystem Approaches to Health* short course and submit a project proposal for field work in a developing country or in a development context in Canada. Students enrolled in the Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health short course will be given detailed information regarding the application process for this award.

Applicants for Career Development Training must meet the following criteria for eligibility:

- Be able to understand AND read both French and English and to express oneself in one or the other of the two. (This course is BILINGUAL: some classes will be given in French and others in English);
- hold Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status in Canada;
- hold a masters/professional-level education or have equivalent experience;
- be working with a project, or be developing a proposal for an upcoming project;
- be able to show a demonstrated interest in ecosystem approaches to complex health problems and the relevance of these approaches to their current and future work;
- demonstrate how this opportunity will develop their career and capacity for work in the field.

DURATION OF THE AWARDS

Graduate Training Awards are to help cover the fees for attendance at the 2010 *Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health* short course at the Université du Québec à Montréal (June 2-13, 2010).

Ecohealth Research Award tenure corresponds to the period of field work, to a maximum of 12 months.

Career Development Training includes attendance at the 2010 *Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health* short course at the Université du Québec à Montréal (June 2-13, 2010).

NUMBER OF AWARDS

Up to twenty (20) Graduate Training Awards per year

Up to four (4) Ecohealth Research Awards per year

Up to five (5) people will be accepted to receive Career Development Training but will not be considered 'awardees'.

COURSE EVALUATION

All participants will be invited to complete a course evaluation subsequent to the course. Participants will also be invited to participate in future activities of the Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health (COPEH-Can).

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATION AND SELECTION FOR ECOHEALTH TRAINING

Applications completed online by **Friday March 19th, 2010** for both Graduate Training Awards and Career Development Training.

Those selected to attend the *Ecosystem Approaches to Health* short course will be announced by **April 16th 2010** using the email correspondence information provided in the application form. With permission, short profiles of Ecohealth Awardees may also be listed on the COPEH-Can website.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Completed application forms must be submitted online by the **Friday March 19th, 2010** deadline. Only Graduate Training Awards applicants need to provide the two reference letters, which should be completed on the website, printed and then sent in a sealed envelope, with the referee's signature over the seal, to the address below. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications will be accepted in English and French only.

Applications successfully meeting eligibility requirements will be evaluated according to:

- demonstrated interest in Ecosystem approaches to health
- the quality of the research or project proposal
- the applicant's letters of reference (only for the Graduate Training Awards)

CORRESPONDENCE AND INQUIRIES

Applicants with inquiries about the awards or short-course should first consult the CoPEH-Can 'FAQ' page at www.copeh-canada.org. Inquiries not answered on the FAQ site can be directed as follows:

To: copeh-can@uqam.ca.

Subject: Query: Ecohealth Training and Awards
(inclusion of the suggested subject line will facilitate prompt response)

Reference letters must be sent to the following address:

Mélanie Lemire
CoPEH-Canada
CINBIOSE
Université du Québec à Montréal
C.P.8888, Succ. Centre-Ville
Montréal, Québec
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