

Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology (ITME)
Fall 2007 Research Semester (Sept 3- Nov 26)
Call for Applications

The Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology (ITME), located on the Eastern Caribbean island of Dominica, has been in operation since 1999. It serves as field station for scientists and research groups from around the world, and also provides intensive research-oriented academic programs in marine ecology and conservation.

We are currently calling for applications to our Fall Semester 2007. In this intensive 12-week program of approximately 260 structured academic contact hours, students engage in 4 courses:

AC 301: Natural History and Identification of Marine Organisms

AC 302: Principles of Tropical Marine Ecology

AC 303: Marine Research Methodology

AC 304: Marine Resource Conservation.

These courses provide the training for applied research projects in which each student participates. All projects are issue-driven in order to provide relevant answers to resource users and policy-makers. Results are presented at public hearings with coverage from various local media outlets.

The research focus for Fall 2007 will be completing the first comprehensive marine habitat documentation ever compiled for the island. Building on the Institute's research to date, students will survey benthic habitats following standardized protocols. The surveys are planned in such a manner as to fill the remaining knowledge gaps about the distribution and condition of Dominica's coastal ecosystems. Final results will be added to the existing database which will be made available in its entirety on the Internet via a new website to be launched at the end of the Fall semester 2007. It will allow the general public as well as professionals to "navigate" the islands marine habitats via regions, habitat types and organism groups.

ITME programs have been a stepping-stone towards graduate school and a career in environmental sciences for many of our alumni, some of whom have returned as instructors and graduate researchers. For the adventurous, environmentally concerned, and research-oriented student, our programs offer a rewarding addition to their professional development. Interested students should contact Mary Akers (Director of Admissions) at admissions@itme.org

Web site: <http://www.itme.org>