

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
The Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department and TENN HERBARIUM
2022 Hesler Visiting Scholar Fellowships
Sponsored by the L. R. Hesler Herbarium Support Fund
Application Deadline: 31 March 2022

Visiting Scholar Fellowships provide opportunities for scientists to use the collections at the University of Tennessee Herbarium (TENN) to enhance and facilitate a specimen-based research project. TENN houses over 649,000 specimens of vascular plants, bryophytes, fungi, and lichens. Our vascular plant collection is unique in having the largest collection of specimens from the state of Tennessee and the historical collections documenting the flora of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a World Biosphere Reserve. Our bryophyte collection houses 183,000 specimens from throughout the world, with a strong emphasis on species found in the Appalachian region of Tennessee, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, the southeastern US, Mexico, and Japan. Our fungal collection houses over 76,000 specimens from all over the world, holds some of the largest collections of fungi from China and New Zealand, and has the largest collection of southern Appalachian fungi in the world.

Graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty, and independent researchers from any country are eligible to apply. Funds are for travel, housing, and other visit-related expenses while conducting research at the TENN Herbarium. A maximum of two awards will be given out annually.

Sponsorship

Applications must have a reference letter of support from a University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK), Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) Department affiliated sponsor. Please contact your desired sponsor beforehand to communicate your background, goals, and objectives. View a list of UTK EEB faculty here: <<https://eeb.utk.edu/people-2/faculty/>>. Applications and reference letters received after the deadline will not be considered.

- Application deadline: **31 March 2022**
- Letters of reference deadline: **31 March 2022**
- Applicant awards announced: **28 April 2022**
- Awardee accept/decline deadline: **12 May 2022**

Each award recipient must make at least one in-person research visit to the TENN Herbarium during the year following their award (for example, if the grant is awarded in May 2022, the recipient will have from 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023 to make a research visit). International applicants should allow appropriate time for visa considerations.

Previous recipients are also welcome to apply for funding, although preference will be given to those who have not received an award in the past.

How to Apply:

- Email the following to the TENN Collections Manager, Margaret Oliver, <molive18@utk.edu> as a single PDF with "Hesler Visiting Scholar 2022 - <applicant's last name>" in the subject line.
 - Project proposal highlighting the goals, purpose, and significance of the proposed research. Include a description of the importance of the TENN Herbarium's collections to the project. Briefly outline the procedures and methods planned for the project.
 - **The project proposal should not exceed two (2) pages, not including references.**
 - An itemized budget estimating travel, lodging, and other anticipated expenses.
 - Scholars traveling from within North America, including the Caribbean, may apply for \$3000 maximum. Scholars traveling from outside North America may apply for \$5000 maximum. List any Visiting Scholar Awards that you or your UTK EEB affiliated sponsor have received in the last five years from the University of Tennessee, including the year, amount, purpose, and accomplishments from the award.
 - The applicant's CV.

- A reference letter of support from the UTK EEB affiliated sponsor should be emailed from the referring individual, not the applicant, as a PDF to the TENN Collections Manager, Margaret Oliver, <molive18@utk.edu> with "Hesler Visiting Scholar 2022 – [applicant's last name] - Support Letter" in the subject line. If the applicant is a student or postdoctoral scholar, please also have a letter of support sent from the supervisor/advisor at your home institution.

- Any thesis/dissertation, publication, or presentation aided by this award must include a statement acknowledging the support of the L. R. Hesler Fund at the University of Tennessee Herbarium (TENN) and hard copies/PDFs should be sent to TENN via Margaret Oliver, <molive18@utk.edu>.

- Once the award is granted the funds must be used as outlined in your proposal.

- Successful applicants will submit a report after the fellowship period including a short summary of the scientific results of the visit for fellow researchers (including any GenBank accessions), cost accounting, and a brief publishable statement (150-200 words) that is written for the general public describing the research visit to the TENN Herbarium and research outcomes. The latter statement may be published in the UTK Ecology & Evolutionary Biology print newsletter and online. This report, cost accounting, and statement must be submitted to the TENN Herbarium via the Collections Manager, Margaret Oliver <molive18@utk.edu>, no later than one month following the researcher's visit.