

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
The Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department
And
The TENN HERBARIUM
Visiting Scholar Fellowships - 2017
Sponsored by the L. R. Hesler Herbarium Support Fund
Annual Competition — Application Deadline: Dec 1, 2016

Visiting Scholar Fellowships provide opportunities for scientists to use the collections at the University of Tennessee Herbarium (TENN) to enhance and facilitate a biodiversity-focused research project. TENN houses over 600,000 specimens of vascular plants, bryophytes, and fungi (including 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 Tennessee (Appalachian Region), North America (Pacific Northwest and Alaska, southeastern US), Mexico, and Asia. Our fungus collection houses over 68,000 specimens with searchable online records, including ca. 6000 collections of plant pathogens. This worldwide collection has a strong emphasis on Chinese and New Zealand specimens, and no other collection can match TENN in southern Appalachian fungi.

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

- Applications open: November 1, 2016
- Application deadline: December 1, 2016, 11:59pm ET
- Letters of reference deadline: December 1, 2016
- Applicant awards announced: January 1, 2017
- Awardee accept/decline deadline: January 15, 2017

Applications for Visiting Scholar Fellowships are considered once a year. 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 were awarded in Jan 2017, the recipient would have from Jan 15, 2017 to Dec 31, 2017 to make a research visit). Foreign visitors 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 Dr. Victor Ma qma@utk.edu as a single PDF with "Hesler Visiting Scholar - <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, excluding references.**
 - An itemized budget estimating travel, lodging, and other anticipated expenses.
 - Scholars traveling **from 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 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 Dr. Victor Ma qma@utk.edu with "Hesler Visiting Scholar - <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 at your home institution.
- Any thesis/dissertation, publication, or presentation aided by this awards 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.
- 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, 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 Dr. Victor Ma qma@utk.edu **no later than one month following the researcher's visit.**