While profound changes are affecting earth’s biosphere and climate, networked cyberinfrastructure is changing the pace and methods of biodiversity research. Global and continental-scale environmental issues demand accelerated research strategies, and rapid progress requires timely, global and continental-scale collaboration. International collaboration with biodiversity and ecological informatics will build the common network protocols for taking on 21st century environmental science challenges. Biodiversity informatics training will be critical to develop the proficiencies needed to build and sustain that shared cyberinfrastructure.

To address these challenges, a Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute program is a 2-week interactive program on the theme: Cyberinfrastructure for International, Collaborative Biodiversity and Ecological Informatics. The Institute will emphasize the application and usage of network-based cyberinfrastructure tools for environmental research collaboration. The Institute program serves as an excellent vehicle for graduate level students, post docs and junior faculty from North, South and Central America to learn about cyberinfrastructure tools and their application to biodiversity and ecological research through a lecture series, hands-on lab exercises and interactions with domain experts.

How do I apply to the PASI as a prospective Institute Fellow?

- Applicants must be graduate-level students, post docs, or junior faculty actively involved in biodiversity and ecological research in the western-hemisphere.
- Complete the 1-page application form available at www.ciara.fiu.edu/eco/application.html.
- Have the student application endorsed by a faculty advisor via a letter of support on university letterhead.
- Email the letter of support as a pdf to biocyber-pasi-help@ampath.net.
Student Selection Process:
The Organizing Committee for the Institute will review each proposal, and then make a selection. Selections will be based on quality of applicant proposals. Selection announcements will be posted on the web site. Please visit http://www.ciara.fiu.edu/eco/index.htm

The distribution of graduate students, post docs and early career faculty participants planned for participation in the Institute is the following: 15 U.S. and 15 participants from Central and South American countries.

Venue:
The venue shall be at the University of Costa Rica and the La Selva Biological Station.

Costs:
Travel, housing, meal and miscellaneous expenses will be completely covered by the Institute budget for all course participants.

Important Dates:
- Deadline to submit 1-page application forms is April 18, 2008.
- Announcement of selected applicants has been changed to May 2nd, 2008 due to the high number of proposals submitted.
- Institute program dates are May 31 – June 12, 2008

Sponsors:
National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Energy
University of Costa Rica, Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)

For more information:
email: biocyber-pasi-help@ampath.net

Curriculum:
- Biodiversity and Ecological Informatics
- Scientific Observation
- Data Collecting, Management and Archiving
- Ecological Sensor Networks
- Ecological Sensor Network Data
- Data Integration, Scientific Workflows
- Network Computing and Grids
- Human factors and Social issues
- Data Re-Use
- Software Engineering for Biodiversity and Environmental Informatics

A detailed curriculum is located at:
http://www.ciara.fiu.edu/eco/index.htm