**AWESOME Application Form**

**Prerequisites**

* Graduate student (any year) or undergraduate student with Junior or Senior standing at the time that the AWESOME international research experience in Ecuador will occur (in exceptional cases, undergraduate students may participate the summer following their graduation). All participants must commit to completing their research projects upon their return to the U.S. after the AWESOME experience.
* Strong academic record.
* Completion of basic coursework (or equivalent experience) relevant to the student’s research area of interest and proposed research project associated with one of the AWESOME themes.
* Interest in learning about and participating in applied and collaborative research broadly related to concepts of watershed sustainability.
* A moderately high degree of physical fitness, including the ability to participate in trips involving many hours of travel and hiking, and to work outside for extended periods of time under a range of weather conditions. Previous experience with field work desirable.
* Agreement with the fundamental principles of intensive study and living abroad, including a high level of curiosity to understand the natural and social environment and engage in cultural exchange opportunities, and exhibiting qualities of group cooperation, conservation ethic, and personal responsibility that are central to the international learning experience and overall program success.
* Basic Spanish language skills are strongly preferred, as knowledge of Spanish will greatly enhance students’ experience living and working in Ecuador. Students without any knowledge of Spanish are required to complete a beginner’s level course in Spanish prior to the AWESOME experience (this course can be taken either in person, online, or using a self-directed language training tool, such as Duolingo)
* Students must indicate one of the central AWESOME themes as their primary research interest and elaborate on their ideas as part of the application (see details below).

**Please answer the following questions:**

1. Briefly describe why you are interested in participating in the AWESOME International Research Experience for students, including how this experience relates to your personal and professional goals (1-3 paragraphs).
2. Please list any extracurricular activities or organizations in which you have participated, indicating any positions of leadership you have held.
3. Please list any jobs or internships you have had.
4. Please list any honors or awards you have received.
5. Please list any outdoor skills, qualifications and experience you possess.
6. Please list any experience you have had studying, living, or traveling in another country, and any languages you speak besides English.
7. Please describe and/or provide an example of your ability to work or conduct independent and collaborative research.
8. Please describe and/or provide an example of your ability to work effectively as part of a larger group or team.
9. a. Have you ever been subject to suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action by a university or college? If so, please explain.

b. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor or are you currently facing such charges? If so, please explain. (Note: A “yes” answer to either question will not necessarily eliminate your chances of acceptance.)

1. In an essay of no more than 1000 words, please describe your research interests related to one of the five broad research themes/working groups of the AWESOME program (see the AWESOME project website for details: https://colsa.unh.edu/natural-resources-environment/opportunities/what-awesome). To the extent that you can, please provide some examples of research questions or key issues that you would be interested in investigating. Interdisciplinary topics that cut across two or more of the five AWESOME research themes are also encouraged. Students are encouraged to discuss their research ideas with potential Ecuadorian and U.S. mentors. (Note: we understand that your final project will continue to evolve and change during the research planning process, so it is not necessary that all of the details are developed at this stage.)

***\* Please submit this form along with a copy of your CV or Resume to:*** [***heidi.asbjornsen@unh.edu***](mailto:heidi.asbjornsen@unh.edu) ***by Friday, November 10, 2023.***