BAHAMAS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD SCHOLARS (BEES) PROGRAMME

The BESS program is a unique opportunity for graduating high school students in The Bahamas who have a keen interest in the environment and want to learn more as they transition from high school to university studies. Successful applicants will pursue a 14-week academic semester at The Island School in South Eleuthera and enroll in a four-month paid internship at BREEF. Upon completion of high school, students can use BESS as a gap year experience before pursuing further studies. Students accepted to the BESS programme will complete either:

A: The Island School Fall Semester (Aug 31– Dec 9, 2020) and Spring Internship (Jan 25– May 16, 2021)

OR

B: Fall Internship (Aug 31 – Dec 16, 2020) and The Island School Spring Semester (Feb 1– May 12, 2021)

Application requirements

Please submit ALL Relevant documents before February 15, 2020. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted. Please tick below to indicate items submitted.

1. ☐ Completed Application Form
2. ☐ Essay responses – Essay questions are described on page 3
3. ☐ Submit personal video to breef@breef.org or piece of art. Refer to guidelines on page 4
4. ☐ Teacher Recommendation – provided by a current teacher. Refer to recommendation guidelines on page 5
5. ☐ Personal Recommendation – provided by an adult (not a relative) that knows you well. Refer to recommendation guidelines on page 5
6. ☐ Official High School Transcript (including results of National Examinations)
7. ☐ Application fee — the non-refundable processing fee of $40 may be paid in cash or cheque to BREEF
8. ☐ Copy of valid passport or Certificate of Identity showing personal information including applicant’s full name and date of birth. Applicant must be a citizen, permanent resident or eligible for Bahamian citizenship
9. ☐ Passport sized photograph
10. Applicants should be 15-18 years of age
11. Minimum Cumulative GPA – 2.50

Please mail or deliver all materials to: BREEF, Caves Village, West Bay Street
P.O. Box CB-11005, Nassau, Bahamas.
Tel: 327 9000, Fax: 327 9002, email: breef@breef.org

BEES Scholarships

Tuition for the Island School 14-week semester is $32,800. Additional expenses including travel to and from Eleuthera, school clothing and incidentals range from $1000-$1500. The BESS admission process is based on merit and potential. Ability to pay does not play any role in the selection process. **Full and partial scholarships are available for selected applicants.**

All BESS Scholars will receive a stipend of $500 per month during the four-month internship period. For students living at their internship site, $250/month will be deducted to cover room and board expenses incurred by the hosting institution.

Please PRINT in Black or Blue Ink
SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Student’s Full Name: _______________________________________________________

Name you commonly use: __________________________________________________

Gender:  Female  □  Male  □  Age: _________  Email address: _____________________________

Birth Date (mm/dd/yy)  Country of Birth  Country of Citizenship

Present Grade Level in School: ____________________________  Graduation Date: ________________________

month/year

PERMANENT ADDRESS

P.O Box  Street

City/Settlement  Island  Country

(____)  (____)  (____)
Home Phone  Work Phone  Cell Phone

CURRENT ADDRESS  □ Same as Above. Please complete the information below if different from above

P.O Box  Street

City/Settlement  Island  Country

(____)  (____)  (____)
Home Phone  Work Phone  Cell Phone

SCHOOL

School name  P.O Box  Street

City/Settlement  Island  Country

(____)
Name of Guidance Counselor  Work Phone

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT

Name of Contact  Relationship  email address

(____)  (____)  (____)
Home Phone  Work Phone  Cell Phone
SECTION 2: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Cumulative GPA ________________

Please indicate examinations taken / to be taken:

☐ BJC  ☐ BGCSE/GCE  ☐ SAT (score) ________________  ☐ AP  ☐ IB

Other e.g. SCUBA certification, First Aid and CPR certification

**BGCSE Results**: Please indicate the grades obtained, if you have not received your results, please check the pending column. Indicate the level of the exam taken/to be taken i.e. Core or Extended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Pending</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please list any extracurricular activities that you have participated in during the past three years.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

SECTION 3: INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The BESS Programme includes a four (4) month internship during which students are offered work experiences at facilities across The Bahamas. Please indicate below, the islands on which you may transportation and have family or friends that you could live with for the duration of the internship. If selected for the programme, this information will help us to place you.

☐ Abaco  ☐ Andros  ☐ Eleuthera  ☐ Exuma  ☐ Grand Bahama  ☐ New Providence

To assist with internship placement, please also indicate whether you have a particular area of interest

☐ Conservation  ☐ Marine Biology  ☐ Education & Outreach  ☐ Research

☐ Terrestrial Ecology  ☐ Marine Mammals  ☐ Other ________________________________

Please indicate whether you will require financial assistance (full and partial scholarships available)  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

I attest that the information given on this application is complete and correct and further acknowledge that any omission or falsification will result in denial of admission or dismissal from the BESS programme. I also understand that any documents filed in support of this application become the property of the BESS programme and that the application fee is non-refundable.

________________________________________  ________________________________  __________
Applicant’s signature  Parent/Guardian’s Signature  Date
On separate sheets of paper, please complete ALL of the following essay questions

1. BESS is a unique and extremely challenging programme with a study and work component.
   • Based on what you know about the BESS Programme, explain why you want to enroll.
   • As an intern, how do you expect to contribute to the work of your host organization?
   • What will you bring to the Island School community?
   • What aspects of the internship and Island School semester sound challenging to you?
   Please respond in 300 words or less.

2. Please write a brief paragraph describing each of the following:
   • Yourself as an intellectually curious student.
   • Yourself outside the classroom; extra-curricular activities, interests, experiences; Do you have a passion?
   • Based on your past experiences and interests, how do you see yourself contributing to sustainable development in the Bahamas?

3. Please write a 250-300 word essay describing a person, issue, event or problem that has somehow shaped your life, and explain its significance to you.

4. Additionally, each applicant [you] must submit a video or piece of art that you created to tell your story and your interest in BESS.

   Multimedia Submission

   In the BESS programme, we recognize that each student is individually unique and we celebrate creativity, originality, and freedom of expression in our community. We would like to hear more about what makes you unique and why you believe that the BESS programme is the right opportunity for you.

   Though this question is optional, we encourage you to creatively express yourself by choosing one of the following options:

   • **Video Submission:** You may submit a video approximately 2 minutes in length. You can access the Vimeo platform [here](https://vimeo.com) and we ask that you follow the directions carefully below:
     1. Make a Vimeo account using your personal email (it’s free!)
     2. After clicking the blue “upload” button in the right-hand corner of your screen, drag your video file into the allotted space. Please be sure to set the privacy settings to “only people with a password can see this video.”
     3. Please use your last name (all lower-case) as your viewing password.
     4. Please make the title of your submission your first name, underscore, last name (i.e. john_smith).
     5. Hit the “share” button and copy your video “link” and paste it into the space below.
     6. If your video requires additional explanation, please provide a short description of your submission in the text box below:

   • **Artwork Submission:** You may also choose to send our admissions team photos of an art project that you believe adequately represents you as an individual and your desire to attend The Island School.
     1. Please email the photo file(s) to breef@breef.org
     2. Provide a 250-word description of your project in relation to how it answers the question in the text box below:
To the Applicant – Please give copies of this section to the people who will be providing your teacher and personal recommendations.

**Recommendation Guidelines**

Thank you for taking time to provide input on ___________________________ for the BESS Programme.

The BESS Programme is a unique opportunity for graduating high school students in The Bahamas who have a keen interest in the environment and want to learn more as they transition from high school to university studies. Successful applicants will pursue a 14-week academic semester at The Island School in South Eleuthera and enroll in a four-month paid internship at an environmental conservation-related organization. More information on the programme is available at [www.islandschool.org](http://www.islandschool.org)

BESS is rigorous, academic, experienced-based programme. Students will participate in semester-long group research projects, organize and lead outdoor expeditions, maintain the campus facility, guide and teach in community outreach activities and engage in real conservation work with a local conservation organization.

Individuals providing recommendations should provide honest and specific evaluation of the student. Letters of recommendation should answer the following questions. Please return your letter to the student in a sealed envelope or email it to breef@breef.org.

**Questions:**

- How long and in what capacity have you known the candidate?
- Please comment on the candidate’s ability (academic for teacher recommendations) with reference to initiative, intellectual curiosity, leadership ability and potential for growth and contribution to The Bahamas. Please discuss any noteworthy academic strengths and weaknesses.
- Please also comment on the candidate’s character and ability to work with and learn from others.