Call for Applicants to the Ecology and Natural Resources Post-Graduate Program (PPG-ERN UENF)

SECOND SEMESTER OF 2024 (2024/02)

The Ecology and Natural Resources Postgraduate Program (PPGERN) of the Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense Darcy Ribeiro (UENF), Brazil, invites applications for Masters and PhDs candidates. The applicant must send all the necessary documentation requested in this call. All forms and documents should be sent in electronic form to the email **pgecol@uenf.br** with the following subject: **APPLICATION TO THE SELECTION PROCESS 2024.02 - NAME OF THE CANDIDATE**.

1   Exams

Applicants for the Master's and PhD programmes who live outside Brazil will be able to take the written exams (English and Knowledge in Ecology) in their own countries (provided a local University or Research Institute can administer the exam). The candidate will need to provide a list of accessible local institutions that can be contacted by the PPGERN to arrange the exam. The interview and project presentation will occur via digital platforms. Applicants from English-speaking countries are exempt from the English exam.

The candidate must contact the available supervisors from UENF before submitting the application, since it is necessary to provide a work plan and an acceptance letter from the chosen supervisor. The supervisors' information, including their email addresses and lines of research, are available at the PPG-ERN web page (https://ppgern.uenf.br). In the "RESEARCH AREA FORM" (at the end of this document), the candidate must indicate the potential supervisor's research area.

PPG-ERN is not responsible for the availability of internet resources during the interviews, which must be fully supplied by the candidate.

2   Application period and documents

- **Dates**: from May 16th to June ~~16~~th **24**th, 2024.

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- Documents: The application must be made by submitting the following documents in PDF format, sent by email (pgecol@uenf.br),

a   Copy of undergraduate diploma or a certificate of conclusion.

b   Copy of Master's degree diploma, or an equivalent document, for the PhD (doctorate) applicants (the candidates that do not possess the Master's title yet can still enroll, as long as they present a declaration that attests the probable date of conclusion of the Master's program;

c   Undergraduate course transcripts;

d   Masters course transcript, for the PhD candidates;

e   Three reference letters written by people connected to the candidate's academic or professional life;

f   Email or acceptance letter signed by the potential supervisor.

g   3x4 cm photo in digital format;

h   Identification document;

i   Documented *Curriculum vitae* (there must be only one PDF file with all the corroborating documents for each CV item, following the sequence and numbering suggested below);

j   For the PhD candidates: Thesis Project with Abstract, Introduction, Objectives, Hypothesis, Methods, References, timetable and Budget. The text must be between 20,000 and 25,000 characters with spaces, excluding references, timetable and budget. When applicable to the project's requirements, it must contain an item about ethical procedures or waste treatment and disposal;

k   For the Master's candidates: Work Plan with Abstract, Introduction, Objectives, Hypothesis, Methods, References, Schedule of Execution and Budget. The text must be between 5,000 and 7,000 characters with spacing, excluding references, schedule and budget. When applicable to the project's requirements, it must contain an item about ethical procedures or waste treatment and disposal;

l   Research Area Form (at the end of this document)

- *Curriculum vitae*: Each and every item in the CV (if applicable) must be supported by documents (certificates, declarations, etc…). All corroborationg documents of the *Curriculum vitae* must be scanned and sent by email (pgecol@uenf.br), in a single pfd file ([name]CVDocuments.pdf), following the numbering and the order as described in the scoring table below. CVs without corroborating documents will not be accepted.

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Master candidates

1) Education:

Maximum score = 4.0 (four) points.

	Items assessed	Points
1.1	Undergraduate performance (assessed by grading system)	From 0,5 to 2,0 points
1.2	Short courses in the area (min: 4 hours) [1]	0,2 points per course
1.3	Professional internship [2]	0,3 points per internship, or for each semester.
1.4	Post graduate course in the area	1,0 unit per course
1.5	Professional courses (other than undergraduate) in the area	1,0 unit per course
1.6	Undergraduate Research Project	0,6 points
1.7	Undergraduate Research Fellowship	0,5 points per semester in the 1st year + 0.2 per additional semester
1.8	Teaching and Monitoring Scholarship	0,1 unit per semester
1.9	Outreach Scholarship	0,5 points per semester in the 1st year + 0.1 per additional semester
1.10	Outreach - participation in meetings and courses	0,1 unit per meeting/course
1.11	Technical support scholarship	0,1 unit per semester

[1]: maximum 1,0 point; [2]: maximum 1,2 points.

2) Technical and scientific output:

Maximum score = 5.0 (five) points.

	Items assessed	Points
2.1	Publication of abstract in a REGIONAL scientific meeting - SIMPLE or EXPANDED	0,2 per Abstract
2.2	Publication of abstract in a NATIONAL scientific meeting – SIMPLE (one page)	0,3 per Abstract
2.3	Publication of abstract in an INTERNATIONAL scientific meeting – SIMPLE	0,4 per Abstract
2.4	Publication of abstract in a NATIONAL scientific meeting – EXPANED (two or more pages)	0,5 per Abstract
2.5	Publication of abstract in an INTERNATIONAL scientific meeting – EXPANDED	0,6 per Abstract
2.6	Oral presentation at a scientific meeting	0,3 per Presentation
2.7	Article / Book / Chapter submitted – FIRST AUTHOR	0,6 per Publication
2.8	Article / Book / Chapter submitted – COAUTHOR	0,3 per Publication
2.9	Article / Book / Chapter accepted or in press – FIRST AUTHOR	1,2 per Publication
2.10	Article / Book / Chapter accepted or in press – COAUTHOR	0,6 per Publication
2.11	Seminar presented in the area	0,2 per Seminar
2.12	Course taught in the area (min: 4 hours)	0,4 per Course
2.13	Award in the area	0,3 per Award
2.14	Organizing committee of Academic-scientific meeting in the area	0,3 per Meeting

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3) Professional experience:

Maximum score = 1.0 (one) point.

	Items assessed	Points
3.1	Extracurricular class taugh	0,02 points per hour
3.2	Consulting or service provision in the area	0,2 points per consulting / service, or per semester
3.3	Participation as researcher in projects in the area	0,3 points per project
3.4	Participation in examining boards	0,2 points for each
3.5	Other professional activities in the area	0,1 unit per ativity

PhD candidates:

1) Education:

Maximum score = 2.0 (two) points.

	Items assessed	Points
1.1	Master's school transcript (grades)	Up to 1,0 unit
1.2	Undergraduate Research Fellowship [1]	0,1 unit per semester
1.3	Undergraduate Research Project	0,3 points
1.4	Professional internship [2]	0,1 per internship
1.5	Post graduate course in the area	0,5 per course
1.6	Professional courses (other than undergraduate) in the area	0,5 per course
1.7	Complementary course in the area [3]	0,2 per course
1.8	Teaching activity as a student[4]	0,1 per each 10 hours

[1]: maximum 0,3 points; [2]: maximum 0,2 points; [3]: maximum 0,6 points; [4]: maximum 0,5 points.

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2) Technical and scientific output: Maximum score = 6,0 (six) points.

	Items assessed	Points
2.1	Oral presentation at a scientific meeting – FIRST AUTHOR	0,15 per Presentation
2.2	Poster presentation at a scientific meeting – FIRST AUTHOR	0,1 per Presentation
2.3	Presentation at a scientific meeting – COAUTHOR	0,1 per abstract
2.4	Article published or in press Percentile >75 - FIRST AUTHOR	1,5 per Article
2.5	Article published or in press Percentile >75 – COAUTHOR	1,0 per Article
2.6	Article published or in press Percentile >50 – FIRST AUTHOR	1,0 per Article
2.7	Article published or in press Percentile >50 – COAUTHOR	0,8 per Article
2.8	Article published or in press Percentile >37,5 – FIRST AUTHOR	0,6 per Article
2.9	Article published or in press Percentile >37,5 – COAUTHOR	0,3 per Article
2.10	Submitted article	0,1 per Article
2.11	Book published or forthcoming in International Publisher - FIRST AUTHOR (indexed publication or ISBN)	1,5 per Book
2.12	Book published or forthcoming in International Publisher – COAUTHOR (indexed publication or ISBN)	0.8 per Book
2.13	Book chapter published or forthcoming in International Publisher - FIRST AUTHOR (indexed publication or ISBN)	1,0 per Chapter
2.14	Book chapter published or forthcoming in International Publisher – COAUTHOR (indexed publication or ISBN)	0,5 per Chapter
2.15	Book published or in press at Editora Nacional - FIRST AUTHOR (publication indexed or with ISBN)	0,8 per Book
2.16	Book published or in press at Editora Nacional – COAUTHOR (publication indexed or with ISBN)	0,5 per Book
2.17	Book chapter published or in press at Editora Nacional - FIRST AUTHOR (publication indexed or with ISBN)	0,6 per Article
2.18	Book chapter published or forthcoming in National Publisher – COAUTHOR (indexed publication or ISBN)	0,3 per Article
2.19	Other publications	0,1 per product

"Percentile" refers to the percentile value presented by the scientific journals, as defined by impact factors in the CLARIVATE or SCOPUS base. Articles may be presented as a single list, without classification, referred to as items 2.4 to 2.9.

3) Professional experience (after graduation): Maximum score = 2,0 (two) points.

	Items assessed	Points
3,1	Class taught in undergraduate course [(1)]	0,1 per 20 hours
3.2	Seminar presented in the area	0,1 per seminar
3.3	Course taught in the area (minimum: 4 hours)	0,3 per course
3.4	Award in the area	Up to 0,3 per award
3.5	Student supervision completed or in progress.	0,5 per student
3.6	Consulting, service provision or internship in the area	0,3 per consulting / service / internship
3.7	Participation in research projects in the area	0,4 per project
3.8	Participation in outreach programs in the area	0,2 per program
3.9	Participation in examining boards	0,2 per participation

(1): maximum 0,5 point

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3   Selection process and exam timetable

Phase 1 (Masters and PhD): Ecology Knowledge and English exams.

- Date: July 1st, 2024, for both Masters and PhD applicants. The English test is mandatory, except for candidates from English-speaking countries or candidates that prove English proficiency as demanded by the Item 5.3.6.1.6 of CAPES Call No. 41 of 2018.
- Place: UENF Campus or an institution close to the candidate's place of residence (to be confirmed after the PPGERN contacts potential institutions).

Phase 2 (Master's and PhD): Interview, Work Plan (Master's) and Thesis Project (Ph.D.) evaluation and *Curriculum vitae* analysis.
- Date: July ~~8~~ **17th** to ~~12~~ **19th**, 2024.
- Place: Via Digital Platform (Google Meet or Gather).

3.1 Phase 1. Exams of Ecology and English: Candidates failing the written exam are eliminated from the selection. It will consist of questions of a theoretical, analytical and/or interpretative nature based on ecology textbooks, listed below. The English test consist of the translation and/or interpretation of a scientific text provided at the time of the test. For the English test, a printed dictionary may be used. Electronic devices will not be allowed to be used as dictionaries. This selection stage will be carried out blindly (the evaluator will only have access to the candidate's number). Applicants who obtain a minimum score of 5.0 (five) in both the Ecology and English exam will be considered eligible to Phase 2 of selection (master's and doctorate). Applicants from English-speaking countries are exempted from the English test. In all cases, the ecology test will make up the full score for this phase.

Recommended books for the Ecology exam:

- Begon, M.; C. R. Townsend; J. L. Harper. Ecology: from individuals to ecosystems. Blackwell Publishing.

- Ricklefs, R. E. The economy of nature. Macmillan Learning.

- Towsend, C.R.; Begon, M. & J.L. Harper. Essentials of ecology. Wiley.

The list of candidates approved in Phase 1 will be made public until June 27th, 2024, in the selection process link. The applicants will be responsible for monitoring the information on the web page.

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3.2 Phase 2 (Master's and PhD): interview, Work Plan (Master's) and Thesis Project (PhD) evaluation and *Curriculum vitae* analysis.

Date: July 8 **17**th to 12 **19**th, 2024

Place: The interviews will be carried out through a digital platform and scheduled after the list of approved candidates in Phase 1 is posted. The PPG-ERN will not be responsible for any applicant's internet technical issues, and the interview may be canceled if it is not carried out on the stipulated date and time.

This phase consists of analyzing the three recommendation letters, interview and work plan (master) or thesis project (PhD) and can eliminate candidates.

There will not be an oral presentation of the work plan for the master's applicants. There will be an oral presentation of the thesis project for the PhD applicants.

The Phase 2 score will be the average of those received for *curriculum vitae*, interview and work plan (or thesis project). The minimum required score for approval in this phase is 5.0 (five) for master's degree candidates and 6.0 (six) for doctoral candidates.

3.3 Final scores and ranking

Approved candidates will be ranked according to a final score.

For the master's candidates The final score will be obtained by the average of scores in both phases: (Phase 1 + Phase 2)/2. An average score of 6.0 is required for approval.

For doctoral candidates, the final score will be the Phase 2 score.

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4 The number of graduate positions offered:

Research Area	Masters	PhD
Ecological Plant Anatomy and Ultrastructure	1	1
Biogeochemistry of Aquatic Ecosystems	1	1
Insect Biology and Systematics	2	0
Nutrient cycling in coastal and terrestrial ecosystems	1	1
Ecology of Plant Communities	1	0
Insect and Pollination Ecology	1	1
Community Ecology, Macroecology and Conservation of Terrestrial Vertebrates - Emphasis on Mammals	0	1
Ecology of Marine Communities: Artificial Reefs and Benthic Biodiversity.	2	1
Ecology and Conservation of Vertebrates with emphasis on Reptiles and Amphibians	1	0
Marine Ecology and Conservation	1	0
Functional Ecology and Marine Macroecological Patterns	1	1
Ecology and Conservation of Mammals, Birds and Sea Turtles	1	1
Ethology and Conservation of Terrestrial Vertebrates	1	2
TOTAL	**14**	**10**

The candidates must contact the potential supervisors before application. The information about the supervisors, including email addresses and research areas, are available on the PPG-ERN web page:
https://ppgern.uenf.br

More information for international students is available on the website:
http://uenf.br/reitoria/assaii/en/

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ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM (PPG-ERN)

RESEARCH AREA FORM

NAME OF APPLICANT:

E-MAIL:

PHONE NUMBER:

COURSE: (   ) MASTERS   (   ) PHD

RESEARCH AREA (AS STATED IN THE APPLICATION DOCUMENT):

NAME OF THE POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR:

SIGNATURE OF THE POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR

DATE   /   /

SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE

DATE   /   /