

BESS



BAHAMAS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD SCHOLARS (BESS) PROGRAMME APPLICATION FORM

The BESS program is a unique opportunity for graduating Bahamian high school students 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 six-month paid internship at an environmental conservation-related organization. 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 30 – Dec 8, 2010) and Spring Internship (February 1 - July 31, 2011)

OR

B: Fall Internship (August 1, 2010 – January 31, 2011) and The Island School Spring Semester (Feb 28 – June 8, 2011)

Application requirements

Please submit ALL Relevant documents before **March 1, 2010**. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted. Please tick below to indicate items submitted.

1. Completed Application Form (pages 2-6 of this document)
2. Essay responses – Essay questions are described on page 3
3. Teacher Recommendation – provided by a current teacher. Refer to recommendation guidelines on page 4.
4. Personal Recommendation – provided by an adult (not a relative) that knows you well. Refer to recommendation guidelines on page 4.
5. Official High School Transcript
6. Application fee – the non-refundable processing fee of \$40 may be paid in cash or cheque to BREEF.
7. 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.
8. Applicants should be 15-18 years of age.
9. Minimum Cumulative GPA – 2.50

**Please mail or deliver all materials to: BREEF, Caves Village, West Bay Street
P.O. Box N 7776, Nassau, Bahamas.**

Tel: 327 9000, Fax: 327 9002, email: breef@breef.org

BESS Scholarships

Tuition for the Island School 14 week semester is \$21,900. Additional expenses including travel to and from Eleuthera, school clothing and incidentals range from \$1000 - \$1500. **Full and partial scholarships are available.** The BESS admission process is based on merit and potential. Full or partial scholarships will be allocated as part of the selection process. Ability to pay does not play any role in the selection process.

All BESS Scholars will receive a stipend of \$500 per month during the six 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.

SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please PRINT in Black or Blue Ink

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 Fax

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 _____

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.

Subject	Level	Grade	Pending	Subject	Level	Grade	Pending

SECTION 3: INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The BESS Programme includes a six (6) month internship during which students are offered work experiences at facilities across The Bahamas. Please indicate below, the islands on which you may 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 _____

SECTION 4: PERSONAL ESSAY

On separate sheets of paper, please complete the following essay questions

1. We offer a unique and extremely challenging programme. Based on what you know about the Programme, explain why you want to enroll. What will you bring to the Island School community? What aspects sound challenging to you. Please write 3-5 paragraphs.
2. Please write a paragraph describing **each** of the following:
 - a) Yourself as an intellectually curious student.
 - b) Yourself outside the classroom – extra curricular activities, interests, experiences. Do you have a passion?
3. Please write an essay describing a person, issue, event or problem that has somehow shaped your life, and explain its significance to you.

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

If yes, please complete Section 6 (page 5-6)

Applicant's signature

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Applicant – Please give copies of this page to the people who will be providing your teacher and personal recommendations. Please fill in your name in the space provided.

Student Name

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

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Recommendation Guidelines

The BESS Programme is a 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.

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

SECTION 6: FAMILY AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION – This information is NOT used for candidate selection. Full and Partial Scholarships based on need and merit will be allocated by the selection committee.

PARENTS' /GUARDIANS' INFORMATION

FATHER / MALE GUARDIAN -

Full Name _____

Age _____ (If Guardian) Relationship to you _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

(_____) _____ (_____) _____ (_____) _____
 Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone

Please indicate the highest level of education he has attained:

- Primary School Middle/Junior High School
- High School 2 Year College
- 4 Year College Professional Degree
- Do Not Know

Father/Male Guardian's Annual Income

Current Salary	\$
Tips & Commissions (average)	\$
Bonus(es)	\$
Business or Investment Income	\$
Child Support received	\$
Alimony payments received	\$
Pension/Disability benefits	\$
Other Income	\$
TOTAL	\$

MOTHER / FEMALE GUARDIAN

Full Name _____

Age _____ (If Guardian) Relationship to you _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

(_____) _____ (_____) _____ (_____) _____
 Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone

Please indicate the highest level of education she has attained:

- Primary School Middle/Junior High School
- High School 2 Year College
- 4 Year College Professional Degree
- Do Not Know

Mother/Female Guardian's Annual Income

Current Salary	\$
Tips & Commissions	\$
Bonus(es)	\$
Business or Investment Income	\$
Child Support received	\$
Alimony payments received	\$
Pension/Disability benefits	\$
Other Income	\$
TOTAL	\$

SECTION 5: FAMILY AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ASSETS

Does your family own its home? YES NO If yes, what is its current value? \$ _____
 Does your family own a business? YES NO
 Does your family own land or buildings other than the home or business? YES NO
 Does your family own an automobile (s)? YES NO If yes, How many _____

EXPENSES

1. How many people including yourself depend on the income of your parents for daily living expenses? Please list.

Name	Age	Name	Age	Name	Age

2. How many of the above are attending or will be attending college in the upcoming academic year? _____

3. How much does your family spend each month on:

Rent or Mortgage	\$ _____	Medical expenses	\$ _____
Household expenses	\$ _____	Savings/retirement	\$ _____
Educational expenses	\$ _____	Insurance	\$ _____
Loan payments	\$ _____		

4. How much are you willing to contribute towards tuition if your child is accepted to the BEES Programme? \$ _____

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES – Use this space to explain any unusual expenses, other debts or special circumstances that we should consider when deciding how much financial aid, if any, you will receive. Use additional sheets of paper if necessary.

If you are offered a scholarship, you may be required to submit proof of annual income i.e. job letter for your parents / guardians. The letter should include base salary as well as where possible, anticipated tips, commissions, bonuses for the current year. Self-employed persons should submit a financial reference letter from a bank.

By signing this form, I certify that the information provided is true, correct and complete and agree to provide additional proof upon request.

_____ Date

_____ Date