



ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL



FROM RIDGE TO REEF:

For generations, traditional Hawaiian land use methods have shaped and maintained this abundant ecosystem. On this 9-day field course, you'll learn firsthand how traditional knowledge has supported the health and interdependence of the entire island ecosystem. At the same time, you'll participate in hands-on research and learn how the scientific process informs conservation and restoration strategies in the 21st century.

YOUR FIELD WORK:

This course will immerse you in the natural beauty of Maui and give you an array of tools and contexts for addressing and understanding the critical conservation issues that threaten the island. You'll deepen your knowledge of Maui's ecology by participating in a variety of research projects, including reef fish surveys, using GIS to help control invasive plant species in a native rainforest preserve, and collecting and cataloging marine debris on Maui's north shore. You'll also complete 10+ hours of service work helping to restore an 800-year-old Hawaiian village and supporting work on a taro farm responsible for cultivating heirloom taro species and maintaining taro biodiversity.

ALOHA'ĀINA:

The challenges facing Hawai'i are not unique: threats from a changing climate, fresh water resource depletion, species extinction, pollution, and overfishing are critical issues across the globe. But the unique environmental and human landscapes of Hawai'i combine to give you a powerful opportunity to engage conservation issues within a cultural context that exists nowhere else on Earth.

HAWAI'I ISLAND ECOLOGY

HIGHLIGHTS



CAMP UNDER THE STARS AND PLUG INTO NATURE



SURVEY REEF FISH TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION



VISIT TOWERING HALEAKALĀ, MAUI'S VOLCANIC BIRTHPLACE

HAWAI'I ISLAND ECOLOGY SAMPLE ITINERARY



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Day 1: ARRIVE ON MAUI

- Fly into Kahului Airport and meet your EPI instructor team
- Head to your oceanside campsite and set up camp

Days 2-3: RIDGE TO REEF - AN INTRODUCTION

- Practice your snorkel skills, swim with honu (green sea turtles), and learn to identify native species
- Explore the summit area of Haleakalā while learning about Maui's vast array of microclimates and endemic species

Days 4-5: HAWAI'I'S WATERSHED

- Develop your understanding of watershed ecology as you support The Nature Conservancy in its work to protect native rainforest ecosystems
- Protect Maui's beaches and the native green sea turtle by collecting data on marine debris for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Learn about wetland and stream ecosystems while you conduct water quality tests

Day 6-8: EXPLORE HAWAIIAN TRADITIONS

- Help maintain the biodiversity of the taro crop as you learn traditional agricultural practices
- Visit the Honokawai Valley and help restore an 800-year-old Hawaiian Village while you learn the traditional uses of plants
- Collect data on reef fish species with Polanui Hiu Eat Hawaiian foods and learn about the influence of Western society on traditional Hawaiian culture and way of life

Day 9: TRAVEL BACK TO THE MAINLAND



Length	Coursework Hours	Research & Service Hours	Focus
5 Days	35	10	island and marine ecology, conservation