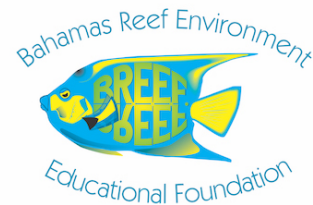


# BESS



## BAHAMAS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD SCHOLARS (BESS) 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, 2021**. 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.  Multimedia submission- Video or piece of art see page 4
4.  Submit personal video to [breef@breef.org](mailto:breef@breef.org) or piece of art. Refer to guidelines on page 4
5.  Teacher Recommendation – provided by a current teacher. Refer to recommendation guidelines on page 5
6.  Personal Recommendation – provided by an adult (not a relative) that knows you well. Refer to recommendation guidelines on page 5
7.  Official High School Transcript (including results of National Examinations)
8.  Application fee – the non-refundable processing fee of \$40 may be paid in cash or cheque to BREEF
9.  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
10.  Passport sized photograph
11.  Completed application for financial aid
12. Applicants should be 15-18 years of age
13. 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](mailto:breef@breef.org)

### BESS 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.

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

( ) ( ) ( )

## 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.

Subject	Level	Grade	Pending	Subject	Level	Grade	Pending

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

## SECTION 4: PERSONAL ESSAY and Multimedia Bio

**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](#) 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](mailto: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.  
student name

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](mailto: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.

## BESS APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID

Full and Partial Scholarships based on financial need will be allocated by the selection committee.

### PARENTS' /GUARDIANS' INFORMATION

#### FATHER / MALE GUARDIAN -

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

(If Guardian)

Age \_\_\_\_\_

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	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

#### MOTHER / FEMALE GUARDIAN

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

(If Guardian)

Age \_\_\_\_\_

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	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

**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 able to contribute towards tuition for the Island School semester? \$  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Father / Male Guardian’s Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother / Female Guardian’s Signature Date

