

# Teacher Professional Learning Institute



## TRUST Summer Institute: Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity

### Institute Overview

Taught by a team of museum scientists and science educators, the Teacher Renewal for Urban Science Teachers (TRUST) Summer Institute in Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity provides an intensive science content-rich experience for pre-service and in-service science teachers. The Summer Institute is designed to actively engage teachers in scientific practices and deepen understanding of evolution, ecology and biodiversity while providing practical ways to teach core ideas associated with these topics.

The two-week TRUST Summer Institute is organized around essential questions. The exploration of these questions includes lectures by museum scientists, investigations in museum exhibitions, biodiversity surveys in Central Park.



Teachers will engage in learning activities suitable for students at a variety of grade levels and will reflect on how these activities can be used in their classrooms. Strategies related to the Next Generation Science Standards, and Common Core reading and writing strategies will be modeled.

### Essential Questions

#### Evolution

- What is the evidence for evolution?
- What are the mechanisms for evolution?
- How do new species form?
- How have humans evolved?
- How do we reconstruct evolutionary relationships to better understand biodiversity?

#### Ecology and Biodiversity

- What happens to ecosystems when environments change?
- What is the value of healthy ecosystems?
- How do we restore ecosystems and biodiversity?
- What are the threats to ecosystems and biodiversity?

### Professional Learning Institute

**July 29 - August 2, 2019**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

*The goals of the Institute are to support teachers in strengthening their content knowledge in evolution, ecology, and biodiversity and to prepare participants for using Museum resources and exhibits to engage their students.*

*Teachers taking the institute for graduate credit will be required to complete assignments designed to encourage reflection on learning, application in the classroom, and capacity for using museum exhibits and resources with students.*

### How to Register?

#### Lehman College

Science education graduate students seeking certification in biology, grades 7-12.

Certified Teachers seeking certification or additional content courses in biology, grades 7-12.

Lehman College application:  
Dr. Wesley Pitts  
wesley.pitts@lehman.cuny.edu

#### Brooklyn College

Offered in Summer Session II  
General Science GSCI 7031  
Field Studies in Life Science for  
Childhood and MS Teachers  
Class I 1797, Section 2AV

Brooklyn College graduate students in:

- Middle Childhood General Science 5-9
- Adolescent Science 7-12
- Science Teachers grades 1-6

Course Permissions:  
<http://tinyurl.com/Su19-SEED-Grad-Permissions>

### American Museum of Natural History

Teachers interested in taking this institute for their own enrichment, can apply on-line: <http://bit.ly/TRUSTLIFE2019>  
The institute fee is \$500 which includes all materials, books, breakfast and lunch each day. Scholarships are available for NYC teachers. Inquiries: [drandle@amnh.org](mailto:drandle@amnh.org)