**Project WiCCED Undergraduate Internship**

Dates of internship: Fall 2023 – May 2024

Location: Center for Experimental and Applied Economics, Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711

Number of positions available: 1

Faculty Mentor: Leah Palm-Forster (primary mentor with mentoring team below)

Faculty Mentor: Christina McGranaghan

Graduate Student Mentor: Carl Nelson-Poteet, Laura Taylor

Professional Staff Mentor: Aisha Emory

**Overview:** Project WiCCED is a multi-institutional project in partnership with National Science Foundation and the State of Delaware aimed at assessing major threats to Delaware’s water quality, and developing viable technological and policy solutions for meeting the challenges imposed by them. Research will involve a combination of laboratory, outdoor field work and/or computational environments. We seek a diverse group of undergraduate students to join our team in a welcoming, collaborative environment.

**Project Title:** Economic experiments to understand behavior in response to environmental risks exacerbated by climate change

**Research Description:**

Coastal communities within Delaware and in regions across the world find themselves in a growing state of risk due to the effects of climate change and sea level rise. Knowledge about human behavior and decision making is essential to understanding how people respond to environmental risks and which strategies can help reduce these risks, particularly for vulnerable communities. Flood hazards are a primary risk in residential areas, whereas increased salinity in soil and water resources is a primary risk in agricultural areas. Through this internship, a student will gain experience with two experimental economics studies focused on understanding behavior under risk. One study will test how different incentives influence participation in coastal home buyout programs. The other study will examine behavior in a common pool research experiment designed to represent groundwater extraction for agricultural irrigation. The student intern will help implement both studies by assisting with data collection. They will also gain experience with data management and analysis, and research communication.

**Research Questions:**

1. How does the design of home buyout programs affect key program outcomes, including (a) spatial coordination of buyouts, (b) perceptions of fairness, and (c) cost-effectiveness?
2. How do heterogeneous groundwater salinization risks affect water pumping decisions of individuals and groups?

**Student Learning Objectives: Professional and Research Skills**

This internship focuses on the development of the following professional and scientific skills.

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| Broad Professional Skills | Specific Skills |
| Planning and time management | Ability to set and complete specific goals of varying scope |
| Express ideas in writing | Write descriptions of research procedures, create a poster of your research, communicate via email professionally and in a timely and consistent fashion |
| Express ideas verbally | Discuss research activity in lab meetings, present poster at symposium |
| Work independently | Independent work ethic – work independently or with peers to solve problems |
| Develop professional network | Work with lab team and broader Social Dimensions and Project WiCCED team to develop a professional network, and utilize peer-groups to problem solve. |
| Maintain professional attitude and work principles (i.e. integrity, responsibility, diligence, following ethical standards) | Be on time, learn procedures, ask questions if unsure, respect everyone you work with, complete and maintain Institutional Review Board (IRB) Certification to work with human subjects in research |

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| Broad Scientific Research Skills | Specific Skills |
| Understand scientific terms | Behavioral, experimental and environmental economics |
| Locate scientific articles and resources | Conduct searches for relevant literature and discuss papers with other members of the research team. |
| Understand research questions | Develop research objectives that address the research question |
| Read and understand research articles | Synthesis findings from relevant literature. |
| Apply research tools and techniques in research experiments | Participate in the development and implementation of economic experiments (including data collection). |
| Understand, apply, and explain scientific concepts and theories | Discuss the research project and key results in lab meetings, with lab personnel, and during the UD research symposium |

**Prerequisites:**

Introductory experience with economics is preferred, but not required.

**Work Environment and Expectations:**

Laboratory environment: Center for Experimental & Applied Economics, 025 Townsend Hall

Field work environment: Opportunities to assist with off-site data collection events, including UD’s Coast Day in Lewes, DE.

The internship is part time during the academic year. The exact hours and expectations are established between the student researcher and mentor.

**Stipend:**

$5,000 - Direct deposit is required.

**Funding Source:**

National Science Foundation EPSCoR Project WiCCED

**Application deadline:**

September 15, 2023

**How to apply:** [https://ugresearch.udel.edu/PUB\_Program.aspx](about:blank)