

UCI School of Social Ecology

Field Study

Spring '25 School of Social Ecology- Based Placements Catalog

Types of Placements Available:

- **Research Assistantships (RA) – Site # 1000**

- Research assistant positions with faculty within the School of Social Ecology**

- **Learning Assistantships (LA)- Site # 1001**

- Learning assistant positions for courses within the School of Social Ecology**

- Learn more about Learning Assistantships here:

<https://dtei.uci.edu/certified-learning-assistants-program-clap/>

Helpful Reminders:

- ** Research and Learning Assistants WITHIN the School of Social Ecology, NOT LISTED on this catalog, could be approved as a field study placement as long as you have approval from the faculty in charge to use their lab/class as a field study placement and they agree to take on the role of supervisor
- **Research and Learning Assistants OUTSIDE of the School of Social Ecology must be reviewed and approved by the Field Study Director before they can be submitted as a field placement. Submit a Research Assistant and Learning Assistant Clearance Form [Here](#).
- **IMPORTANT: Please carefully read about the unit and enrollment requirements for research/learning assistantship positions [HERE](#) before applying.

If you have any questions, contact us
at sefieldstudy@uci.edu!

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Remote
Law, Justice, & Popular Culture: A Digital Media Archive	Placements available = 4
Supervisor Information	
Name: Brandon Golob	
Title: Associate Professor of Teaching	
Email Address: bgolob@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>Are you a true crime fanatic? Do you find yourself watching the latest true crime Netflix series, listening to My Favorite Murder, or even engaging as an internet sleuth for your favorite case? Have you ever sat in a Criminology, Law & Society course and thought about how the material was related to popular media? If so, this is the research project for you. In this experiential learning lab, students critically analyze content from a variety of new media outlets, examining how streaming services and podcasts shape public perception of legal systems, law enforcement, and law and justice issues generally. Specifically, they are trained to screen and code media content for presentation in a digital media archive. This archive is part of a free media literacy web resource for educators and students working in criminology, law, and related fields. Ultimately, whether your interest is in media, education, or law (or perhaps all three), this project and is your opportunity to explore these topics and more!</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
<p>All students are welcome to apply but applications should reflect: (1) strong interest in media covering crime & justice issues; (2) excellent organizational skills & attention to detail; (3) proficiency with Google docs/sheets.</p>	
How to Apply	
<p>https://forms.gle/ss86V8m1r2aU4aFFA</p>	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Human rights and technology lab	Placements available = 2
Supervisor Information	
Name: Nicole Iturriaga	
Title: Assistant Professor	
Email Address: n.iturriaga@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>The laboratory will serve undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty who have an interest in the intersection of human rights and technology social science research. The lab's primary functions will be to support new and ongoing research and to build a thriving academic community on campus. This will be accomplished in several ways. First, after being properly trained, undergraduate students will have the opportunity to work as research assistants on projects associated with the lab. Second, the graduate students will workshop their ongoing projects, share updates, get feedback, and, if their projects need additional support, have access to the undergraduate research assistants. Having a tiered effect will ensure that the laboratory remains consistent and productive and will aid in the educational development of all the students involved. Third, due to these opportunities, the lab will help all students develop mentoring relationships with faculty. Fourth, there will be weekly lab meetings to review the progress of the research projects. And finally, the Human Rights and Technology Lab will advance further collaboration and research development by hosting workshops for visiting scholars, both from the UCI community, as well as other universities, with similar research interests.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
3.5 gpa	
How to Apply	
Email Resume and cover letter	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Environmental policy research with Ulibarri Research Group	Placements available = 3
Supervisor Information	
Name: Nicola Ulibarri	
Title: Assistant Professor	
Email Address: n.iturriaga@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>The Ulibarri Research Group studies ways to design regulations and decision-making processes to yield better social and environmental outcomes. We focus on water resource management, coastal resilience, and infrastructure siting, all with an eye toward building more adaptive and equitable environmental governance. Sample projects might include reviewing plans and policies to evaluate whether/how they support environmental justice, climate adaptation, or other sustainability-related goals; surveying or interviewing government agency or nonprofit employees to understand barriers they face in implementing policies; or reconstructing a decision-making process (i.e., collaboration, use of science) from meeting minutes. Our research is fundamentally mixed method, interdisciplinary, and practically oriented.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
<p>Applicants should be organized, self-motivated, and have high attention to detail. Coursework, career interests, or related experience in environmental policy or governance is a plus.</p>	
How to Apply	
To apply, email a resume and cover letter to ulibarri@uci.edu	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Housing policy change in Southern California	Placements available = 4
Supervisor Information	
Name: Alejandra Reyes	
Title: Assistant Professor	
Email Address: lreyesru@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>Recent reforms in California have expanded oversight and enforcement mechanisms for localities to comply with state housing laws and plan for local and regional housing needs. This research interrogates how state-level intervention has driven shifts in housing policies in Orange County. Affluent coastal, canyon, and southern cities have been notably resistant to policy change. Meanwhile, lower-middle-income cities, closer to Los Angeles, have leveraged state laws to pass tenant protections in response to political pressure from residents and local activists. Local governments in general, however, are facing pressure to address the acute housing needs of increasingly diverse and mobilized constituents, opting to roll back voter initiatives that restrict development, implement or expand inclusionary zoning ordinances, establish housing funds, and use public land for affordable housing construction. Building upon an assessment of city-level housing conditions, strategies, and policy shifts, we seek to study successful affordable housing strategies, and their implementation processes, by carrying out surveys, interviews, and focus groups with relevant stakeholders in the county.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
<p>Great interest and basic knowledge around housing pressures and policy. Strong reading, writing, and communication skills. GIS and research experience a plus.</p>	
How to Apply	
<p>Email resume and brief cover letter outlining their interest and fit for the position.</p>	

(NEW AS 1/9/25)

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
UCI Community Garden Lab	Placements available = 2-4
Supervisor Information	
Name: Douglas Houston	
Title: Associate Professor	
Email Address: houston@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>We are conducting a study on community gardens and agriculture sites (such as school gardens, urban farms, and vertical growing facilities). Our goal is to understand the scale of these sites, and how they are impacting health and the environment. In the Fall, we will launch a survey for garden/agriculture leaders to participate in. We need assistance creating a map of different sites, analyzing survey data, and conducting a literature review.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
<p>Experience conducting online research, writing for both practice and academic articles and engaging with the general public and/or grade school children is a plus.</p>	
How to Apply	
<p>Email a cover letter and resume to Professor Doug Houston at houston@uci.edu.</p>	

(NEW AS 1/9/25)

OPPORTUNITY: Student Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name	Remote
National Registry of Exonerations	Placements available = 1
Supervisor Information	
Name: Simon Cole	
Title: Professor	
Email Address: scole@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>Work as a remote assistant to the Executive Director and Research Fellow of the National Registry of Exonerations, a virtual organization that maintains an online public archive of all known exonerations in the United States. Examples of assignments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling information for an annual survey of Conviction Integrity Units in the U.S. • Proof-reading exoneration case summaries for publication 	
Requirements (subject to change)	
Interest in wrongful convictions and justice. Knowledge about wrongful convictions and exonerations is preferred.	
How to Apply	
Email Professor Simon Cole, scole@uci.edu .	