



Spring '26 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

- **Within the School of Social Ecology:**
Research or Learning Assistant positions **not listed in the catalog** may still be approved as a Field Study placement. You must have approval from the faculty member overseeing the lab/class and their agreement to serve as your supervisor.
- **Outside the School of Social Ecology:**
Research or Learning Assistant positions **must first be reviewed and approved** by the Field Study Director. To request this, submit a [Research and Learning Assistant Clearance Form](#).
- **Important:**
Before applying, please review the **unit and enrollment requirements** for Research/Learning Assistantship positions [\[HERE\]](#).

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

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 at UC Irvine in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, and Sociology	
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 with resume and cover letter	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name:	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Fossil Fuel Divestment Lab	Placements available = 2
Supervisor Information	
Name: Mukul Kumar	
Title: Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy	
Email Address: mukulk@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>The Fossil Fuel Divestment Lab brings together faculty and students to work on fossil fuel divestment research rooted in principles of social and environmental justice. One of the main research goals of our lab is to map the complex and often opaque relationship between fossil fuel and financial supply chains. To accomplish this goal the lab maintains a database of the largest financial investors in coal, oil, and gas industries. Drawing upon ArcGIS mapping techniques the lab maps the role of global financial investors in fueling fossil fuel infrastructures, including mines, pipelines, power plants and ports in the United States and across the Asia Pacific.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
<p>Commitment to social and environmental justice Minimum 3.5 GPA Preference for Urban Studies majors</p>	
How to Apply	
<p>Students should apply by emailing me a resume and cover letter at mukulk@uci.edu</p>	

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, Urban Planning and Public Policy	
Email Address: ulibarri@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 (e.g., 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)
Land use and housing policy	Placements available = 6
Supervisor Information	
Name: Ajay Garde	
Title: Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy and Faculty Director, Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program	
Email Address: agarde@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>This is an ongoing research project titled "Housing Affordability" with a focus on Southern California cities. Student research assistants would assist the professor in downloading, analyzing, and tabulating the data, and literature, on housing and land use regulations. The data and the literature is publicly available from various online sources. The professor will provide instructions and guidelines to students for their research assistance.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
<p>Expertise in MS Excel analyses and minimum 3.3 GPA; prefer urban studies majors but open to others who have interest in housing policy</p>	
How to Apply	
Send email with CV and cover letter	

OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name:	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
Do Plans Converge? Tracking Local Planning in Response to State Transportation Goals	Placements available = 2
Supervisor Information	
Name: Jae Hong Kim	
Title: Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy	
Email Address: jaehk6@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>Please see the following webpage for a brief project description: https://its.uci.edu/projects/do-plans-converge-tracing-the-evolution-of-local-transportation-plans-amid-expanding-state-goals/. Students will have an opportunity to code/evaluate local plans and explore ways to better utilize newly emerging (AI) tools for text analysis.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
Urban Studies or ENSP majors	

How to Apply	
Send me your resume by email.	
OPPORTUNITY: Research Assistant	Virtual/Remote/Hybrid
Placement Name:	Hybrid (mix of in-person and remote)
QUEST FOR PEACE IN THE NUCLEAR AGE	Placements available = 10+
Supervisor Information	
Name: John M Whiteley	
Title: Professor of Social Ecology	
Email Address: whiteley@uci.edu	
Placement Information	
<p>In 1983 I started interviewing informed individuals on the question: 'Is Peace Possible?'. The first was Harvard Psychologist B.F. Skinner in the UCI Faculty Club. All have been Video Recorded. The interviewees are National Security specialists such as Secretaries of Defense, Religious Leaders, CIA Directors, Anthropologists, Philosophy leaders, Admirals and Generals. For Social Ecology students there are 9 interview with Psychologists and Medical Doctors.. After discussion, Social Ecology students will choose what individuals the wish to make Transcripts of the interviews--for example both B.F. Skinner and Carl Rogers.</p>	
Requirements (subject to change)	
This is open to Social Ecology Field Study students.	
How to Apply	
Email me	