

Graduate Research Assistant

**Social Science and Policy
Institute for Coastal Science and Policy
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC**

The Coastal Resources and Management PhD program at East Carolina University (ECU) is seeking a graduate research assistant (GRA) interested in the human dimensions of marine and coastal resource management issues to join our program in the fall semester of 2017. The Coastal Resources and Management PhD program is housed within the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy (<http://www.ecu.edu/icsp/ICSP/ICSP.html>), which provides an interdisciplinary approach to coastal studies that emphasizes the links between science and public policy.

The ideal candidate has an interest in using an applied and interdisciplinary approach to examine marine and coastal resource management issues. A master's degree in the social sciences or natural resource management related field is required, along with experience using social science data collection techniques and qualitative and/or quantitative data analyses to answer complex research questions. Excellent verbal and written communication skills and strong interpersonal skills are desired.

Specific responsibilities include (but are not limited to): 1) assisting with all aspects of ongoing research efforts (i.e., data collection, analysis, dissemination of results), with the potential for assuming leadership roles in such projects; 2) study within and meet the requirements of the Coastal Resources Management Program at ECU (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/crm/>). Current research efforts utilize a political ecology approach to examine: 1) the participation of marine resource users in fisheries management processes in the U.S. Caribbean and Pacific islands, and 2) human adaptation to the impacts of climate change and the particular vulnerabilities experienced by marginalized populations, such as those in rural communities of coastal North Carolina. While the successful candidate will be expected to assist in these efforts, he/she will also be encouraged to develop new research proposals based on personal interests.

The assistantship provides a tuition waiver, monthly stipend, and health insurance for the first year. Funding in subsequent years is likely, contingent on performance and available funds.

While the application deadline is March 1, 2017, earlier submissions are encouraged. Though not required, interested applicants are encouraged to send a brief letter of interest and a copy of their CV (including GPA and GRE scores) via email to Dr. Cynthia Grace-McCaskey (gracemccaskeyc15@ecu.edu) prior to formally applying to the ECU graduate school.