

**Call for Applications from UC Davis students:**  
**Summer 2016 Undergraduate Intern**  
**USDA Climate Sub Hub for California**

Application deadline: **June 24, 2016**

**Background**

The USDA Regional Climate Hubs were created in February 2014 to help land users adapt to climate change and climate variability. A secondary focus is enhancing climate mitigation on working lands. The California Sub Hub at UC Davis focuses on California forests, rangelands, and specialty crops (fruits, nuts, and vegetables). The Climate Hubs participate in some original research, but they primarily focus on translating and sharing existing data and delivering it to land users and land managers.

The Sub Hub is seeking a summer 2016 intern who is currently an undergraduate at UC Davis. The successful applicant will work on some or all of the following projects:

- ***Update “Forest Adaptation Resources Workbook” for California.*** In 2012, USFS researchers in Michigan created a highly successful workbook to help forest managers adapt to climate change. Because this workbook focuses on Midwestern forest types, we are modifying it for a California audience. Tasks include collecting background information on California forests; curating references and photos; summarizing research papers; creating maps, charts, and tables; proofreading and editing.
- ***Create two-page drought fact sheets.*** We are currently writing our second series of drought fact sheets for land users and the public on topics such as (1) the bark beetle epidemic in the Sierra Nevadas; (2) new techniques to facilitate and measure groundwater recharge; (3) lessons that California can learn from drought responses in other countries. The intern can contribute material to the existing fact sheets and may opt to initiate new fact sheets on topics of his/her interest.
- ***Assist with journal article on climate change and rangeland productivity.*** As a companion project to our forthcoming climate vulnerability assessment of California rangelands, we are initiating a modeling study on how future climate change will affect forage productivity on California rangelands. Depending on experience, the intern can assist with data gathering, reference organization, and GIS analysis.
- ***Write blog posts for the Sub Hub WordPress website.*** We aim to publish a new 500-word blog post every two weeks. Depending on interest, the intern could write about topics such as (1) Forest biomass for energy production in California; (2) Rangeland compost application for climate mitigation and adaptation; and (3) programs to help forest landowners remove fire-prone trees killed by drought.
- ***Help create “virtual demonstration plots” on eXtension.org.*** We have identified two local projects – cover crop demonstrations at the NRCS Lockeford Plant Materials Center, and the USFS South Fork American River (SOFAR) Watershed project – that

are good candidates for “virtual demonstration plots” with an interactive online presence to educate a diverse audience about climate adaptation in these systems. Tasks include travel to the field sites, taking photographs, interviewing project managers, and writing about the projects’ activities and goals.

Your mentors for these projects will be:

- Dr. **Jennifer Balachowski**, Sub Hub Fellow <jbalachowski@ucdavis.edu>
- Dr. **Amber Kerr**, Sub Hub Coordinator <ackerr@ucdavis.edu>
- Dr. **Stephen Ostoja**, Sub Hub Director <stevenmostoja@fs.fed.us>

Additional guidance will be provided by the **Sub Hub Advisory Board**, a group of several dozen California-based scientists and policymakers with expertise in climate change.

### **Position details**

*Location:* John Muir Institute of the Environment, **UC Davis**. (Working remotely some days can be considered, but presence on campus would be required for regular meetings.)

*Dates:* **Monday, July 11, 2016 to Friday, September 16, 2016** (10 weeks full-time). Start and end dates are flexible and can be negotiated.

*Compensation:* **\$11.25 per hour** (Student Assistant IV). You will be an employee of the University of California, Davis.

### **Qualifications and experience**

*Minimum qualifications:*

- Upper-division standing and minimum 3.0 GPA in a major related to natural resources (for example, biology, environmental science, science policy)
- Excellent scientific literacy
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software (e.g., Microsoft Office)
- Eligibility for employment by the State of California

*Desired qualifications:*

- Strong writing and library research skills (including using bibliographic software)
- Interest in and demonstrated engagement with California natural resource issues
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- Prior work experience in scientific research and/or communication
- Familiarity with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and basic statistics

### **Application instructions**

The application deadline is 5:00 PM PDT on **Friday, June 24, 2016**. A complete application consists of the following items emailed to [ackerr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ackerr@ucdavis.edu):

(1) **A brief statement of interest** (400-800 words) that addresses the following points:

- What are your relevant skills, knowledge, and experience for this position?
- Why are you interested in natural resources and climate change in California?
- Which of the projects listed above would you most like to work on, and why?
- How do you expect this position to help you develop your skills and move toward your long-term career goals?

(2) **Your current resume / CV.** This should include your full name, address, and contact information; your educational history and focus; your employment history; and any relevant volunteer work, awards, and/or extracurricular activities.

(3) **A copy of your most recent university transcript.** Unofficial copies are acceptable. If you have attended more than one institution, please include copies of all transcripts.

(4) **Names and contact information for two professional references** (e.g., professors, teaching assistants, former employers). Please do not submit written letters; recommendations for finalists will be solicited via phone or email. Your references should be able to address most or all of the following points:

- The capacity in which they have known you, and for how long
- Your aptitude for natural resource science and policy
- Your research and writing skills
- Your responsibility and organizational skills
- Your ability to learn quickly and work independently
- An overall assessment of how well-suited you are for this position

**Finalists will be contacted by Monday, June 27,** to arrange a phone interview and to provide a recent sample of their written work. Decisions will be made the week of July 4.

### **For more information**

Please contact [ackerr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ackerr@ucdavis.edu) with any questions related to the application process. More background information can be found at the links below.

*USDA Climate Sub Hub for CA:* <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/california>

*Sub Hub Wordpress site:* <http://caclimatehub.ucdavis.edu>

*John Muir Institute of the Environment, UC Davis:* <http://johnmuir.ucdavis.edu/>

*Forest Adaptation Resources Workbook:* <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/40543> (original version); <http://adaptationworkbook.org/> (online interactive version)

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