

Opportunity Title: USFS Undergraduate and Graduate Fellowships in Economics

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-USFS-RMRS-2024-0062

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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A complete application package consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Selected candidate must provide proof of completion of the degree before the appointment can start. Click [Here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV
- Two educational or professional recommendations. At least one recommendation must be submitted in order for the mentor to view your application.

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

Application Deadline 5/24/2024 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description *Applications will be reviewed on a rolling-basis.

USFS Office/Lab and Location: A fellowship opportunity is available with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) within the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) located in Fort Collins, Colorado.

At the heart of the U.S. Forest Service's mission is their purpose. Everything they do is intended to help sustain forests and grasslands for present and future generations. Why? Because their stewardship work supports nature in sustaining life. This is the purpose that drives the agency's mission and motivates their work across the agency. It's been there from the agency's very beginning, and it still drives them. To advance the mission and serve their purpose, the U.S. Forest Service balances the short and long-term needs of people and nature by: working in collaboration with communities and our partners; providing access to resources and experiences that promote economic, ecological, and social vitality; connecting people to the land and one another; and delivering world-class science, technology and land management.

The Warziniack Lab is a world leader in research related to valuation of ecosystem services. The lab's research contributes directly to national and international efforts to develop natural capital accounting methods and statistics, national climate change assessments, and guides management of the nation's forests. Its research aims to better understand links between human and ecological systems and provide the science necessary to better steward natural resources, with an emphasis on water and watershed health, by:

1. Developing and maintaining state of the art models of integrated



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- human-natural systems,
2. Developing nationally consistent data for ecosystem services that can be applied at a broad range of spatial scales,
 3. Identifying key risks to ecosystem services, ways to mitigate those risks, and ways to adapt to negative impacts,
 4. Communicating the value of ecosystem services to key stakeholders, including the scientific community and policymakers.

Research Project: Research assistants conduct both independent and collaborative research on issues that matter, and enjoy a challenging environment in which to continue their professional careers. Selected candidates will support two main projects:

- **Ecosystem valuation and natural capital accounting for forests:** The Warziniack Lab leads the development of the U.S. natural capital accounts for forests and collaborates closely with the White House and other agencies to implement the National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions. Research assistants will conduct research with ecological and economic data to develop natural capital accounts for forests and analyze the impact of forest loss, climate change, and environmental policy on the U.S. economy. Advanced students and postdocs will also be asked to help advance economic theory and build computational models of integrated economic-ecological systems to measure the contribution of forests to national wealth.
- **Impacts of climate change on U.S. water resources and watershed health:** The lab is the center for the U.S. Forest Service's national assessment of water resources. Members of the lab study water demand and supply and assess the impacts of climate and socioeconomic change on water resources, particularly water from forest and mountain systems. Research at the lab is currently focused on measuring the contribution of water from forests to local economies and assessing adaptation options due to climate change in places like the Colorado River Basin.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, research assistants conduct research independently and in partnerships with fellow scientists from diverse backgrounds and will interact with other professionals through team projects, seminars, and collaboration with peers in other agencies and academia. Research assistants will learn to submit for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals and present their research to colleagues at conferences and meetings, further enhancing their professional credentials.

Mentor: The mentor for this opportunity is Travis Warziniack (travis.w.warziniack@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor.

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: August 19, 2024. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for 9 months, but

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may be extended upon recommendation of USFS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is part time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience.

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and USFS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, USFS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process please email ORISE.USFS.RMRS@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields.

Preferred skills:

- The ideal applicant has strong quantitative skills, with some exposure to econometrics and data analysis software, such as R or Python.
- Experience with GIS and geospatial data is preferred.
- Ability to operate a vehicle and have a clean driving record is preferred.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree.
- **Academic Level(s):** Post-Associate's, Post-Bachelor's, Post-Master's, or Undergraduate Students.
- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Business** (3)
 - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** (1)
 - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** (6)
 - **Social and Behavioral Sciences** (2)