

GSR Opportunity for 2016-17 with Office of Sustainability & Energy and the Climate Readiness Institute

Application deadline: First review of applications will be September 7, 2016; position will remain open until filled.

Project Background:

The Office of Sustainability and Energy and the Climate Readiness Institute are partnering to study the potential impacts of climate change on the Berkeley campus. The broader goals of the project are three-fold:

1. Understand the impacts of climate change—e.g., extreme storm events, sea level rise, heat waves, drought, vector-borne diseases—that may affect on-campus health, infrastructure, and natural systems, as well as the regional infrastructure systems (BART, EBMUD, etc.) that campus operations depend upon.
2. Identify and evaluate strategies that could address the expected impacts and build the resilience of all aspects of campus life and operations.
3. Engage faculty and students in climate adaptation research to build campus resilience, where possible.

The project will proceed in two phases. In the first phase (2016-17) – *Initiating Assessment and Developing Impacts Report* – the team will set up an advisory committee and engage a graduate student, using TGIF funds, to craft a Climate Impacts Report. The graduate student (GSR) will work for one year, at 10 hours per week, to produce the report that will include a summary of the relevant science and an assessment of the campus's exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity for selected assets. Work would begin in Fall 2016, with the student completing the work by June 2017.

During Phase I, the project team and the advisory committee will work to develop the scope of the project's second phase as the vulnerabilities identified in the Report become clearer. The outline for Phase II includes:

- Assess Risk and Prioritize – evaluate the likelihood and consequence of climate impacts in order to prioritize planning.
- Adaptation Planning – identify and prioritize adaptation strategies and determine the resources required for their development and implementation.

Examples of the kinds of vulnerabilities, risks, and strategies that might be identified include:

- Impacts of extreme storms and sea level rise blocking the ability of students, faculty and staff to travel to the campus
- Impacts of sea level rise that would affect the EBMUD waste water treatment plant (West Oakland) that serves the campus and surrounding area.
- Impacts of extended, multi-year droughts causing water shortages for the campus.

- Impacts of more extreme heat days and longer heat waves on the health of students, faculty and staff working in buildings without conditioned air.

Job Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Director of the Office of Sustainability & Energy and the Program Director for the Climate Readiness Institute, conduct the following tasks:

1. Summarize Science – review and summarize the relevant science (Bay Area, California, and global) for sea level rise, extreme storms, precipitation, heat, and other climate impacts that may affect the Berkeley campus. This will involve literature review, stakeholder interviews and small group discussions.
2. Assess Impacts – provide a written analysis of the exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity for key aspects of the campus. Assets to be studied include all on-campus assets (humans, infrastructure, and natural systems) and selected off-campus assets such as BART, freeways, energy networks, and water networks that play critical roles maintaining campus life.
3. Climate Impacts Report - prepare a final report for tasks 1 and 2.
4. Phase 2 Work Plan Development – assist the project team in developing Phase 2 of the project.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Excellent analytic skills
- Basic understanding of climate change mitigation and impacts (preferred)
- Ability to work independently
- **Has excellent communication and writing skills**
- Must be a current UC Berkeley student

Logistics:

This is a 25% GSR appointment, or 10 hours a week @ \$X/hour. No office is provided. The GSR will be expected to meet on a regular basis on campus with the OSE Director and the CRI Program Director.

Application information:

Please send your cover letter, resume and a writing sample to Lisa McNeilly (lmcneilly@berkeley.edu)

The position starts upon hire and ends June 2017.