

Cascadia CoPes Hub

The Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Research Hub

Open Position

Graduate Research Assistant for the CHARTER Fellows Program 2021-2022

The Pacific Northwest coastline is at significant risk of earthquakes from the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which stretches more than 1,000 kilometers from Cape Mendocino in California through Oregon and Washington to Vancouver Island, Canada. The National Science Foundation has selected Oregon State University with a five-year grant to lead a research hub focused on increasing resiliency among coastal communities in the Pacific Northwest. The Cascadia hub will focus on two broad areas of research: advancing understanding of the risks of Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquakes and other chronic and acute geological hazards to coastal regions; and reducing disaster risk through comprehensive, inclusive assessment, mitigation and adaptation planning and policymaking.

A unique aspect of the larger Cascadia project is a broader impacts initiative we are calling the CHARTER Fellows program. This CHARTER Fellows program will recruit and mentor 30 undergraduate students over the duration of the grant. The CHARTER Fellows program provides a unique opportunity for Oregon State University (OSU), University of Washington (UW), University of Oregon (UO) and Humboldt State undergraduate students to learn about coastal hazards, community adaptive capacity, and community engagement. Fellows will also participate in social science research that includes collecting data through surveys, interviews, observation, GIS data, and social media. The Fellows will be collecting meaningful data in Cascadia coastal communities and sharing their findings with middle and high school students in order to excite them about the possibilities of becoming coastal hazards scientists and leaders in the region. In particular, this is an opportunity for students who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color); Latinx; LGBTQ; first generation; and/or low-income, in all academic disciplines to participate in social science research.

The CHARTER Fellows program is overseen by three faculty members: Professor Plaza and Dr. Gaines from OSU, and Professor Meléndez from the UO. We are currently seeking to hire a full-time enrolled, graduate student who will work with our Broader Impacts Team to help with the project development, recruitment, instruction, and mentoring of the first cohort of undergraduate students who will come from OSU, UW and UO.

Minimum qualifications/requirements

- Knowledge of higher education student mentoring, research principles and practices
- Skill in organizing resources and establishing priorities
- Skill in planning, organizing, and coordinating activities for undergraduate students who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color); Latinx; LGBTQ; first generation; and/or low-income, in all academic disciplines
- Experience in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with diverse undergraduate students
- Skill in both verbal and written communication
- Academic and/or work experience related to the field of research
- Experience with specialized software or datasets that include Excel, MS Word, SPSS, ENVIVO, GIS, Google Docs, Box



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- Prior experience in teaching and/or mentoring at any level (k-12, higher education) would be an asset

While a research assistant is expected to contribute in many ways to the research project, typical responsibilities include the following

- Actively recruiting and mentoring undergraduate students on multiple (~3) campuses in the Pacific Northwest.
- Supervising undergraduate students working on the research project (maintaining records on assignment completion, acting as liaison/mediator between the undergraduate students and the faculty researchers).
- Conducting literature reviews in preparation for CHARTER Fellows learning about the Cascadia Subduction Zone
- Organizing guest speakers and out of classroom experiences for the CHARTER Fellows.
- Preparing materials for review by the Human Subjects Committee of the OSU Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Managing and responding to project related emails from the CHARTER Fellows
- Preparing, maintaining, and updating website materials for the CHARTER Fellows
- Attending project meetings
- Attending area seminars and other meetings as necessary
- Collaborating with principal investigators in developing instructional materials
- Preparing other articles, reports, and presentations

Terms and conditions

Must be available to work for blocks of at least 4 hours in length during our hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, including the summer term. Some travel may be involved as well as weekend work.

This is a Graduate Research Assistant position, 19 hours per week (.49 FTE) for the academic year 2021-2022. This position also comes with a full tuition remittance.

Preference will be given to candidates who are looking to grow with us and seek an opportunity to develop broad knowledge in the areas described above and can commit to availability year-round are strongly encouraged to apply.

Preference will also be given to graduate students interested in at least a two-year commitment.

Successful students on the project will be individuals who see themselves as a life-long learners, who enjoy critical engagement with colleagues for the potential of growth. This includes constantly being reflective on how they can improve.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

How to apply

Please send a cover letter and a resume to Professor Dwaine Plaza (dplaza@oregonstate.edu), Dr. Lisa Gaines (Lisa.Gaines@oregonstate.edu), and Professor Jose Melendez (jmelende@uoregon.edu). The cover letter should be explicit about why you want to join the project, how the experiences you list on your CV would contribute to your duties



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on the project, and identify what you hope to acquire from the experience that will be used in your future professional and/or community practice.

Deadline

November 10, 2021 for the first round of candidate screening.

