

Postdoctoral Scholar

Youth Community Action and Science in Our Forests

Position Overview

The Center for Community and Citizen Science (CCCS) seeks an accomplished science education researcher to join a collaborative team working on a large-scale National Science Foundation DRK12-funded research and development project. The Youth Community Action and Science in Our Forests (“Our Forests”)¹ project is a partnership between the Center for Community and Citizen Science at UC Davis, the Sierra Streams Institute (SSI), and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSoS). Together we are developing, implementing, and studying a field-based education program for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students and their teachers, who partner with local forest scientists, land managers and community organizations to study local forest health and fire risk in Nevada County, California. In addition to joining this project team, the Postdoctoral Scholar will be an important member of the growing community of faculty, staff, and students that make up the Center for Community and Citizen Science at UC Davis. They will have the opportunity to play a key role in shaping the education research activities of the Center into the future.

This is a full-time one-year (12-month) position with the possibility of renewal. Application review will be on a rolling basis until the position is filled, and we will begin considering applications on May 2.

Position Expectations

The Postdoctoral Scholar will co-lead with the PI and current Postdoctoral Scholar mixed-methods, primarily qualitative, case-study research as well as some basic quantitative survey administration and analysis. This role includes research design, data collection on-site at elementary schools in Nevada County, data analysis, literature reviews, leading and supporting writing of peer-reviewed journal articles, coordinating and leading research-focused virtual and in-person meetings, and assisting SSI Project Staff in developing outreach and communication materials as defined in the proposal. This may also involve training and supervising data collection by research assistants from UCD, SSI staff, and partner teachers assisting with data collection.

Importantly, because this is a researcher-practitioner partnership, the Postdoctoral scholar will also collaborate with and support Project Staff at SSI and NCSoS in the development and delivery

¹ <https://education.ucdavis.edu/ccs-our-forests>

of the elementary teacher summer institute and monthly teacher meetings. The Postdoctoral Scholar will also lead the development of research products such as conference presentations and journal articles. Core responsibilities of this position are:

- to co-lead design of all research components of the project, and to oversee the daily research activities of the project.
- to adapt and refine observation, interview and survey instruments, building on those from the previous year, and conducting literature reviews as necessary to develop/update instruments;
- to lead qualitative and quantitative data analysis of observational, interview and survey data collected at case study programs in field-based settings over for each year;
- to lead and contribute to presentations at professional conferences about this project;
- to lead author and co-author peer-reviewed journal articles in areas of science education, environmental education, learning sciences, and/or conservation;
- to support the design, development and implementation of teacher summer institute and monthly teacher meetings with SSI collaborators.
- to assist SSI Project Staff in the continuing refinement of the Forest Investigation field day curricula
- to mentor and supervise the research assistants as needed;
- to assist with the planning and implementation of virtual and in-person Advisory Board meetings, and assist with writing annual NSF reports; and
- to contribute to products useful to practitioners in collaboration with SSI.

The primary worksite location is the Center for Community and Citizen Science, UC Davis with travel to Nevada County schools and the Sierra Streams Office in Nevada City.

Required Qualifications, Knowledge & Skills

- Ph.D. in education or environmental studies with a preferred focus on science education, environmental education, learning sciences, youth development, or related field.
- Experience working with youth (ages 8-11 preferred but not required).
- Experience with qualitative research methods including interview data collection and analysis, field and ethnographic observational data collection and analysis.
- Experience with data management for large projects.
- Ability to write independently and collaboratively on deadline, and documented evidence of scholarly publications.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills, and preferably some project management experience.

Preferred Qualifications, Knowledge & Skills

- Experience with community and citizen science (research and/or practice)
- Knowledge of social learning theories and issues in education (formal or informal settings)
- Experience with Dedoose or other qualitative data analysis software

- Demonstrated capacity to lead a social science research team in highly collaborative research
- Demonstrated ability to mediate and facilitate a process involving multiple stakeholders with diverse interests

To Apply

Send a CV and cover letter to ccs@ucdavis.edu with subject line Our Forests Postdoc. Application review will be on a rolling basis until the position is filled, and we will begin considering applications on May 2.

Compensation

Salary is commensurate with experience. The position includes full benefits, as well as funds for project-related travel, equipment, and other research-related expenses.

Center for Community and Citizen Science

The UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science (CCS) was launched in 2016 to build on the University's growing reputation for excellent research on public participation in science. Based at the School of Education, the Center serves as a home for ideas, research, and training to help scientists, communities, and citizens collaborate on science to address environmental problems as a part of civic life.

To advance its mission, the Center develops trainings, curriculum, pilot projects, and innovative collaborations with scientists, schools, museums, government agencies, nonprofits, and others. In addition to research and practice, the Center plays an important role in both intellectual and practical discourse on citizen and community science at UC Davis and beyond.

Campus information

UC Davis is a smoke and tobacco-free campus (<http://breathefree.ucdavis.edu/>).

We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals' with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see:

<http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct>

Under Federal law, the University of California may employ only individuals who are legally able to work in the United States as established by providing documents as specified in the

Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Certain UC Davis positions funded by federal contracts or sub-contracts require the selected candidate to pass an E-Verify check. More information is available at: <http://www.uscis.gov/e-verify>

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis) is committed to inclusive excellence by advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. UC Davis celebrates the multi-cultural diversity of its community by creating a welcoming and inclusive environment demonstrated through a variety of resources and programs available to academics, staff, and students. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are core values of UC Davis that are embedded within our [Principles of Community](#) and are tied with how to best serve our student population. Our excellence in research, teaching, and service can best be fully realized by members of our academic community who share our commitment to these values, which are included in our [Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Vision](#), our strategic plan: “[To Boldly Go.](#)” our Principles of Community, the [Office of Academic Affairs’ Mission Statement](#), and the [UC Board of Regents Policy 4400: Policy on University of California Diversity Statement](#). UC Davis is making important progress towards our goal of achieving federal designation as a [Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution](#). The [Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) offers a plethora of resources on their website, and the [Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(HEDI\)](#) has outlined similar goals in their Anti-Racism and DEI Action Plan.” There are a plethora of links available on the [About Us](#) webpage where you can learn more about our Administration, Diversity and Inclusion, Rankings, Locations, Native American Land Acknowledgement, Sustainability, Visiting UC Davis, UC Davis Health, and Campus Safety.

The university is consistently ranked among the top institutions in the world for campus sustainability practices by the [UI Green Metric World University Rankings](#). UC Davis is focused on achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and repeatedly shown its [commitment to preserving a healthy and sustainable environment for generations to come](#).

As a condition of employment, you will be required to comply with the University of California [SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination Program Policy](#). All Covered Individuals under the policy must provide proof of Full Vaccination or, if applicable, submit a request for Exception (based on Medical Exemption, Disability, and/or Religious Objection) or Deferral (based on pregnancy) no later than the applicable deadline. New University of California employees should refer to Appendix F, Section II.C. of the policy for applicable deadlines. (Capitalized terms in this paragraph are defined in the policy.) Federal, state, or local public health directives may impose additional requirements.