Graduate Research Assistantship focused on Evaluating Reciprocal Linkages in Social-Ecological Systems

The Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Program at the University of Utah is pleased to announce a new PhD Assistantship to study the reciprocity between biophysical processes, human behavior, and social systems at the Bonneville Salt Flats (managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management). The research is supported by the National Science Foundation’s Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems Program (CNH). The assistantship involves working closely with Dr. Matt Brownlee and an interdisciplinary team comprised of social scientists, geologists, and biologists. Specific work will entail data collection and management, logistical planning, project and team coordination, and presenting, writing, and dissemination of results. Data collection will involve both qualitative and quantitative approaches, focusing on visitor surveys, social network analysis, fuzzy logic cognitive mapping, GIS applications, and GPS visitor tracking. It is expected that students will generate their own research projects synergistic with the larger research plan as a way to support their academic progress.

Applicants wishing to be considered for the assistantship and financial support for a campus visit should submit the following materials before December 15, 2016.

- A cover letter articulating interest and skills pertaining to the above assistantships
- A current resume/CV
- Names and contact information for 3 academic or professional references
- Transcripts from the last college/university attended

The assistantship requires 20 hours of work a week for 9 academic months and 30 hours a week for 3 summer months. Compensation includes a monthly stipend, tuition/fee remission, and subsidized health insurance. Travel support to present at professional conferences is available through the grant, the Department, the Graduate School, and student associations is available. The assistantship is renewable for a total of up to four years, during which time continual registration as a full-time student is necessary and progress toward Ph.D. completion is expected. Applicants must be admitted and enrolled in the doctoral program in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism at the University of Utah.

Utah is the west at its best! With four distinct seasons, ready access to all outdoor activities including superb skiing at eight world-famous resorts just minutes from campus. Utah is home to five national parks and countless national, regional, state, and local recreation areas. Salt Lake City, with a metropolitan population of 650,000, is the hub of the Intermountain West.

Additional questions, inquiries, and applications for campus visitation support should be directed to Dr. Matt Brownlee at matthew.brownlee@hsc.utah.edu and 801-585-7239. Applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Brownlee to discuss the research and assistantship prior to submitting their application materials.