

Graduate Assistantship in Aquatic Ecology

Cardinale Lab

Department of Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology

University of California-Santa Barbara

A graduate research assistantship (M.S. or Ph.D.) is available for a student to work on a newly funded National Science Foundation project that examines the relationship between species diversity and the productivity of aquatic ecosystems. The goal of this project is to resolve two contrasting perspectives - one that suggests species diversity is a primary determinant of the productivity of ecosystems, and a second that suggests species diversity is simply a consequence of ecosystem production. The project will use stream ecosystems as a model, focusing on the diversity of both primary producers (freshwater algae) and consumers (invertebrate herbivores). The work includes field and laboratory experiments, as well as a theoretical component through collaboration with Dr. Kevin Gross at North Carolina State University.

The student will help set-up and manage the proposed experiments, as well as develop their own thesis or dissertation topic to compliment the broader goals of the project. A background in ecology, environmental science, limnology, or a related field is required. Experience working with freshwater organisms is a plus, but not required.

UCSB is scenically located between the beach and mountains, and boasts a terrific quality of life. Top-notch research facilities are available, and interaction with faculty in the Institute for Computational Earth System Science, the Bren School of Environment, the Marine Science Institute, and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis offers unparalleled opportunity for training that spans multiple disciplines and ecosystems.

The assistantship offers a competitive stipend plus tuition and health insurance. The position is available as early as summer 2010, but no later than September 2010. Interested candidates should e-mail their transcript, curriculum vitae, GRE scores, TOEFL scores (if appropriate), a cover letter describing their research interests and career goals (2 page limit), and the names and contact information of three references to:

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<http://www.lifesci.ucsb.edu/eemb/faculty/cardinale>

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