



Master of Science in Environmental Sciences and Management Projects

Request for Proposals 2020-2021

Background

The purpose of the Masters of Science in Environmental Sciences and Management program (MS ESM) is to provide advanced education in management of the environment and natural resources. Advanced study in environmental sciences and management, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and communication is the core of the degree. The degree allows an emphasis in a range of areas of study, listed below.

- Sustainability
- Environmental Policy
- Soil Science
- Hydrology
- Forest Sciences

Description of Professional Track

The majority of students pursuing the MS ESM follow our professional degree track. This is a 1 year program of study (3 quarters of course work, 1 quarter project work). It is a mix of course work and completion of a professional project. Students can work individually or in groups on a project. Project planning begins during MS ESM course work and is a part time effort by students during the academic year. Students work full time toward implementation and completion of the professional project over the summer term.

Description of Professional Project

The professional project is to provide students with an advanced learning experience by solving an applied environmental sciences or environmental management problem. Students work with a faculty adviser toward completion of the project.

The scope of what constitutes a professional project is broad. It can range from a white paper on a specific environmental policy to an analysis toward a traditional hypothesis test to an applied field exercise. Projects should be rigorous enough to challenge students, but are completable within the 1 year degree program.

Project Proposals

We are seeking proposals for individual or group projects for the 2020-2021 academic year. We encourage proposals from faculty, non-profits, resource agencies, municipal or county government, and industry.

What makes a good project proposal?

- **Appropriate Theme:** solution oriented toward developing recommendations for an environmental science or management problem.
- **Environment Centered:** will address relevant science, policy, or management questions.
- **Discipline Focused:** to align with the interests of faculty and students on the five emphasis areas in our degree
- **Appropriate Time Line:** Manageable within one year program length.
- **Appropriate Workload:** Feasible data requirement allowing students to complete within the time frame
- **Appropriate Funding:** If the project requires substantial resources or travel the proposal should indicate how these expenses will be covered.

If your project proposal is selected it will be provided to students in MS ESM for selection. We will work diligently to pair a student with the project. But cannot guarantee it will be selected.

Submit proposals via email
by May 22, 2020 to:

Christopher Surfleet
csurflee@calpoly.edu
805-756-2743

Environmental Sciences and
Management Graduate Coordinator

CAL POLY

College of Agriculture, Food
& Environmental Sciences
Natural Resources Management
& Environmental Sciences

Master of Science in Environmental Sciences and Management

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Please provide the following information (2 pages maximum).

1. *Title of the environmental science or management problem.*
2. *Client, including name, email, phone, and affiliation. If different than proposer. The client is the primary representative from the client organization and the main point of contact for students.*
3. *Description of Project(s)*
 - a. Summary of the project goals
 - b. Objectives. What are the science and policy or management questions that need to be answered by the project? Focus on 1 to 3 concrete and achievable objectives.
 - c. Significance. What is the context for this work? Why is this work important? Who is the target audience/client? Which other people (besides the client) would benefit from the results of this work?
 - d. Where is the project location? In general, how did the problem arise? What has been done to date, if known?
 - e. Deliverables. What product(s) would be expected from the project. This will primarily be a short description of the written final report. However other products such as a presentation to the client, hosting a seminar on project results, a completed restoration project, etc. can be suggested.
4. **Project Funding.** Describe what financial support can be provided toward achieving the project objectives. Funding is not required, however if substantial resources are needed to complete the project then describe what financial commitment can be made. Funding, even small amounts, for travel, student stipends, materials and supplies, or tuition support will be given preference in the selection process.
5. **Supporting Materials** (not counted toward 2 page limit). Any additional information that supports the project description.

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