FUTURE RIVERS

Training the next generation of culturally-aware freshwater sustainability scientists for a globally competitive workforce.

Much of the world's population depends on large freshwater ecosystems to provide goods and services that support economies and livelihoods. Despite the important societal and economic benefits of these freshwater systems, the ability to understand the potential impacts of changes to these ecosystems on communities is limited. A better understanding of the physical, biological, and social dynamics that sustain freshwater ecosystem services will allow for better management of these critical resources.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Future Rivers is a National Science Foundation Research Traineeship graduate program that prepares students to be fluent in 21st century data science approaches and to understand interactions among and within food, water, and energy sectors in order to advance environmental sustainability.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Develop new technical and data science skills
- Foster innovative interdisciplinary and international science integration
- Improve trainee communication skills
- Increase cultural awareness and inclusivity among faculty, trainees, and participants
- Create networks and opportunities for student career development

PROGRAM PARTNERS

College of Engineering	eScience Institute	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminstration (NOAA)	The Nature Conservancy
College of the Environment	Freshwater Initiative		United States Geological Survey (USGS)
EarthLab	Microsoft Global Water Program	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)	

PROGRAM DETAILS

- The program enhances other degree-granting graduate programs at UW (i.e., this is not a degree granting program)
- Students can concurrently apply to Future Rivers and their UW graduate program of interest, or they can apply during their graduate program
- The program begins fall quarter each year, through fall 2023, and runs for 18 months
- Any student from any College/Department at UW can apply

FUNDING

- Potential for up to 18 months of stipend during participation in the core program – awarded competitively, based on availability.
- Potential for other funding opportunities – 1-year travel stipend or research/travel funds – after completing the core program; open to all trainees.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Professional Networking
- Social and educational activities (speaker series, book talk, etc.)
- Community engagement via Summer Institutes, research, and volunteer opportunities
- Interaction with external partners from multiple sectors including non-profit, business, government, and multi-lateral

New STEM Career Skills
- Access to Data Science Summit, career fairs, and hack weeks
- Optional science communications trainings, including science through filmmaking
- Opportunity for innovative interdisciplinary integration
- Increased cultural awareness and inclusivity

Community Building
- Develop a community of colleagues and friends through quarterly social meetups, seminars and coursework, and intensive interdisciplinary research

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Three selected data science courses relevant to your degree program
- A graduate seminar in Applying a Food-Energy-Water Nexus Perspective to Freshwater
- Two quarters of a 1-hour eScience community seminar (if pursuing a Certificate in Data Science)
- A Spring speaker series
- A week-long Summer Institute (U.S. or International)
- A science communication workshop
- Quarterly STEM inclusivity trainings

JOIN US!

APPLY IN LATE FALL

- The application period opens late fall of each year (Oct/Nov) to join for the program starting the following fall
- Applications are accepted on a rolling-basis, however funding decisions will be made by February of each year
- Program funding is limited and awarded on a competitive basis
- Applications consist of a Letter of Interest and Faculty Advisor Letter of Recommendation

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