

DENIN Environmental Scholars Internships

Dates of internship: June 6, 2022 through August 11, 2022

Location: Based on the ever-changing campus response to COVID-19, student projects can be conducted in-person, virtually or hybrid depending on safety, feasibility and campus protocol.

This internship will be hybrid. If it becomes safe, feasible, and allowed through campus protocol, working in person will take place at the Center for Experimental and Applied Economics, Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711

Number of positions available: 1-2

Faculty Mentor: Leah H. Palm-Forster

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Mentor: Lusi Xie

Project Title: Economic experiments to assess the impacts of environmental risk information

Research Description:

Unsustainable pumping for agricultural irrigation increases the risks of groundwater pollution. This project evaluates the impacts of groundwater pollution risks and environmental information on pumping behavior in a laboratory economic experiment. The first focus of the project is to examine how people's perceived risks of groundwater pollution are affected by the actual risks. The second focus is to study how groundwater pumping decisions are affected by one's own risks and the risks faced by other members of the community.

Research Questions:

1. How does environmental risk information affect people's risk perceptions?
2. What is the relationship between the perceived risk of groundwater pollution and pumping decisions?
3. How do different perceptions of one's own risks and the risks of others affect pumping decisions within a group?

Student Learning Objectives: Professional and Research Skills

The DENIN scholars program helps students develop skills that foster future research interest and professional success. This internship focuses on the development of the following professional and scientific skills.

Broad Professional Skills	Specific Skills
Planning and time management	Ability to set and complete specific goals of varying scope
Express ideas in writing	Write descriptions of research procedures, create a poster of your research, communicate via email professionally and in a timely and consistent fashion
Express ideas verbally	Discuss research activity in lab meetings, present poster at symposium
Work independently	Independent work ethic – work independently or with peers to solve problems
Develop professional network	Work with lab team and broader Social Dimensions and Project WiCCED team to develop a professional network, and utilize peer-groups to problem solve.
Maintain professional attitude and work principles (i.e. integrity, responsibility, diligence, following ethical standards)	Be on time, learn procedures, ask questions if unsure, respect everyone you work with, complete and maintain Institutional Review Board (IRB) Certification to work with human subjects in research

Broad Scientific Research Skills	Specific Skills
Understand scientific terms	Behavioral, experimental, and environmental economics
Locate scientific articles and resources	Conduct searches for relevant literature and discuss papers with other members of the research team.
Understand research questions	Develop research objectives that address the research question
Read and understand research articles	Synthesis findings from relevant literature.
Apply research tools and techniques in research experiments	Participate in the development and implementation of economic experiments (including data collection).
Understand, apply, and explain scientific concepts and theories	Discuss the research project and key results in lab meetings, with lab personnel, and during the UD research symposium

Prerequisites:

Introductory experience with economics is preferred.

Work Environment and Expectations:

Office/economics laboratory environment: Work will primarily take place **on zoom and in-person at Center for Experimental and Applied Economics**. Hours are flexibly determined between student and mentor.

Stipend:

\$3,500. Direct deposit is required.

Funding Source:

National Science Foundation, Delaware EPSCoR Track I

How to apply: https://ugresearch.udel.edu/PUB_Program.aspx