Science Communications Fellowship
National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS)

APPLICATIONS DUE BY AUGUST 31, 2018

Gain hands-on experience communicating the value of science for solutions to some of today's most pressing environmental challenges.

Within the realm of ecological and environmental issues, there is a growing need for effective science communicators who can convey discoveries in compelling ways that both increase the public understanding of science and contribute to dialogue and decision-making around science-informed solutions. This fellowship is an opportunity for someone who is excited to make scientific research a more accessible and influential tool in addressing environmental challenges.

Fellows will support the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), an independent research center of the UC Santa Barbara. Our mission is to accelerate scientific discoveries that will enhance our understanding of the world and benefit people and nature, as well as to transform the scientific culture to be more open, efficient, and collaborative. Learn more at www.nceas.ucsb.edu.

Through our Science Communications Fellowship, you can build professional skills and a portfolio while communicating research in ecology and the environmental sciences to scientific and non-technical audiences. You’ll support a team of science communicators from NCEAS and two of its flagship initiatives, the US Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network’s Communications Office and the Science for Nature and People Partnership.

This paid opportunity is open to all currently enrolled UCSB graduate students, with a preference for those enrolled in the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management and stronger preference for those in Bren’s Strategic Environmental Communications focus.

Through the fellowship, you will:

• Gain practical experience in communicating science, primarily through storytelling and web-based platforms (e.g. program websites), to a variety of audiences, especially nontechnical audiences;
• Build a base of skills in multiple communications techniques, such as journalistic writing, web writing, digital storytelling, and graphic design and communications;
• Create original communications products;
• Have the opportunity to lead your own larger communications project;
• Receive mentorship from science communication professionals.

Responsibilities
Tasks could include, but are not limited to the following:

• Write articles for websites/newsletters
• Lead at least one significant, self-designed communications project
• Update and create website content
• Create outreach materials, such as case studies or flyers
• Create digital media products, such as infographics and Story Maps
• Support efforts to track NCEAS’ impact

**Desired Qualifications**

• Passion for communications and environmental science
• The ambition to pursue a career that would benefit from training in science and environmental communications
• Excellent writing skills, especially an ability to write in an engaging and accessible style. Experience or training in writing for nontechnical audiences and/or journalism is highly desirable.
• Creative, proactive, and team-oriented
• Strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and an ability to meet deadlines
• Knowledge of, or confidence to learn, digital communications tools as needed for specific projects, including web editing in Drupal and/or WordPress, basic HTML, graphic design (especially Adobe Creative Suite), and video editing.

**Time Commitment**
This is a year-long fellowship that begins with the Fall 2018 quarter and ends in September 2019. We expect fellows to commit to the entire year. If not graduating in 2019, there could be the option to continue, with a preference for another one-year commitment.

During the school year (September through June), fellows must work 10 hours per week. During the summer, the fellowship will be full time (40 hours/week).

NCEAS is located on State Street in downtown Santa Barbara. We will expect fellows to work most of their hours in our office. However, there will be some flexibility for remote working, especially during the school year, to be discussed if hired.

**Compensation:** $16/hour

**To Apply**
Please email your resume, a letter of interest, and a relevant writing sample to Jenny Seifert at seifert@nceas.ucsb.edu by **August 31st, 2018**. Please put “Science Communication Fellowship” in the subject line. If you would like to (optionally) highlight additional previous web-based communications work you have created, please include the links in your resume.