Welcome to the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

Our overall mission is to provide a setting that stimulates interactions, creativity, and productivity. Our website (http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu) contains a host of information about the Center including: funded projects, a calendar of events and contact information for all NCEAS residents and staff. We encourage you to ask the staff if you have any difficulty finding information you need. We are here to help you make the most of your time at NCEAS.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

We will provide stipend support of up to 50% of your salary from your home institution. Your home institution salary and NCEAS stipend will not exceed 100% of your home institution salary. For example: if your home institution will cover 30% of your salary NCEAS will cover up to 50%, and if your home institution will cover 70% of your salary NCEAS will cover 30%.

Sabbatical Fellows receive a housing allowance to offset the cost of local rent, up to $1,500 for singles or $1,750 for families, or the cost of your rent - whichever is less.

NCEAS does not directly pay your rent. We provide you with a monthly housing allowance which can be directly deposited in your bank account. To determine your monthly allowance you will need to provide our Financial Assistant with a copy of your rental agreement.

NCEAS will cover the cost of one round trip plane ticket to/from Santa Barbara. We also cover up to $250 towards shipping/moving expenses.

You should be aware that as a sabbatical you are not eligible for health insurance or other benefits through UCSB. Please make sure you understand this policy and make proper arrangements at your home institution.

UCSB will not provide you with a 1099 tax form. NCEAS can provide you with an informal letter detailing income you received while in residence at the Center. Please see your own accountant for specific tax guidance.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Your primary responsibility while at NCEAS is to fulfill your goals regarding scholarly research, as outlined in your proposal. It is your responsibility to ensure that support from the Center is acknowledged in all publications in which you are involved. Please visit our website to learn about the specific formatting we would like you to use for acknowledgements.

While your primary focus is on your research, it is important that you are an active member of the NCEAS community. The NCEAS postdocs historically have placed high value on their interactions with sabbatical visitors during their time at NCEAS. We expect you to attend
Ecolunch and practice talks given by the postdocs, and to make reasonable efforts to participate in other group activities at NCEAS.

Please take advantage of the many opportunities you will have to interact both formally and informally with resident and visiting scientists at NCEAS. Many Sabbatical Fellows participate in Working Groups (please seek consent from Working Group leaders in advance of the meeting), collaborate with NCEAS postdocs, and initiate in-house activities such as journal clubs or Working Groups that involve NCEAS residents and UCSB scientists.

ECOLUNCH

Ecolunch is an informal gathering held every Thursday in the NCEAS lounge. A presentation is given by NCEAS residents, UCSB scientists, or other scientists visiting the Center. All resident scientists, including Sabbatical Fellows, are expected to attend Ecolunch. You will receive weekly email invitations from one of the postdocs in charge of organizing the Ecolunch schedule. You can also find information regarding Ecolunch on the NCEAS website.

OUTREACH/COMMUNICATIONS

You may wish to participate in one of our many outreach opportunities at NCEAS. One of our popular, longstanding initiatives is Kids do Ecology, a program in which several local 5th grade classes, each with their own NCEAS scientist, design and conduct ecology experiments. Other outreach opportunities include presenting seminars at ESA SEEDS Chapters or Minority Serving Institutions, participating in career panels, giving talks to the local community, or writing for the Kids do Ecology bilingual website. NCEAS can provide financial support for your participation in some outreach activities; please discuss your interests with the Outreach Coordinator.

COMPUTING

New NCEAS residents and staff should visit Nick Brand, Thomas Hetmank and Ron Theiss in Rooms 305 and 314 to orient to our computing environment. For questions about data analysis and data management, see Rick Reeves and Jim Regetz in Room 301.

PRINTING

NCEAS has a computing lab with three printing sources. The NCEAS computing staff will set up your computer with access to all the printers in the lab.
VISA INFORMATION

The Events Manager at NCEAS will help coordinate any visa needs you may have during your tenure at NCEAS. NCEAS coordinates visa processing with the UCSB Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS). You can visit their website for (The Office of International Students and Scholars) where you will find specific information regarding procedures and policies for foreign scholars at UCSB. You are ultimately responsible for maintaining and updating your visa status during your stay but please keep in close communication with the NCEAS Events Manager because clear communication is essential in all matters regarding your visa status.

Together you and NCEAS are partners in working with OISS to keep your paperwork moving smoothly. If you need to email OISS about your visa, it is very important that you cc nceas@nceas.ucsb.edu (this address will reach our Business Officer and our Events Manager) so that we have a record of the communication and can do meaningful follow-up with OISS if any questions arise. When we communicate with OISS about matters pertaining to your visa, we'll also cc you so that you will be informed and have an opportunity to clarify any issues. If you need to talk to OISS by phone, please ask our Events Manager or Business Officer to be part of the call so everyone is aware of what has been covered. When that's not practical, send a confirming email to OISS to capture your understanding of what was said with a cc to us.

When you get close to the end date for your visa, it's always a good idea for us, together, to ask OISS about your options so you can make informed choices. We urge you to help us keep track of your deadlines with reminders as they approach - we will do the same. Most things are very routine, but rules often change and situations can vary from individual to individual, so knowing what choices you have can help you in making the best choices.