

University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Graduate Training in Cooperative Extension - Pilot Program

Request for Applications

Applications due Friday, March 4, 2016

The University of California (UC) is one of the country's most prestigious land grant university systems. Within UC, the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) oversees the network of agriculture experiment station (AES) faculty and cooperative extension (CE) specialists and advisors. Together, this statewide network of researchers and educators are dedicated to the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources.

In this era of global change, the need for generating relevant and scientifically robust, applied research will only increase. As a result, UC ANR is developing and implementing strategies to train and recruit the next generation of CE specialists and advisors, ensuring its ability to address the challenges of the next century. Recognizing that there is no formal program currently devoted to educating and training students interested in CE work, UC ANR launched a three-year pilot program in 2014 that prepares graduate students for careers in extension research and outreach.

Eligibility

Graduate students currently enrolled in a MS or PhD degree program sponsored by an academic department or program in the College of Natural Resources (CNR) at UC Berkeley are eligible to apply. Students must work with a mentorship team comprised of AES faculty, CE specialists, and/or CE advisors in developing a proposed research/extension plan for a semester, summer, academic year, or calendar year. Students are strongly encouraged to include campus *and* county-based academics in their proposal to experience working with ANR's broad network.

These positions are funded 50% through UC ANR, 25% through the student's home department, and 25% through their mentorship group. The student's mentors must specify their potential or confirmed funding source in their letter of support (see below for funding details).

Note: To date, only the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management (ESPM) and the Energy Resources Group (ERG) has committed to providing the required matching funds. Interested CNR graduate students should talk to their department about the availability of matching funds. Detailed information on this pilot program has been provided to graduate program chairs and graduate student affairs officers (GSAO).

Benefits

Students will receive stipend support equivalent to a Step V graduate student researcher (GSR) appointment at 50% time during the academic year, and 100% time during the summer. For academic year appointments, the program will pay in-state tuition, fees, and SHIP. Note that the pilot program does not cover out-of-state tuition. The term of summer-only appointments is defined as 2.5 months (June 1 to August 15).

Expectations

- Students are expected to coauthor and/or produce materials with their partners/mentors. Extension components may include meetings with clientele groups, webinars, extension publications, or other innovative delivery methods.
- Students are expected to help prospective applicants network with UC ANR personnel. Networking may be organized through a range of venues (e.g., CE showcase and presentations to the Extension and Outreach Working Group, and participation in UC ANR Program Team meetings if appropriate).
- Students are expected to present the outcomes of their work.
- As a cohort, funded students are expected to meet at least twice per month and to undertake the administrative duties of the program (e.g. host workshops, promote the GSE program through social media, posters, and personal visits; update website; and coordinate the programmatic and financial elements of the Extension showcase; among others).

Application Requirements

All application materials and student information will be submitted electronically using the following link:
<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=16358>

Basic information about the applicant: students will be asked to provide their contact information and the name of the program and department they are enrolled in. Additionally, the applicant must specify the time-frame for the proposed project.

Narrative (attach as PDF or Word): applicants are expected to develop a narrative proposal articulating a plan for a research and extension project (no more than two pages—single space is acceptable). Applicants should review and address the evaluation criteria specified below.

Support from Major Professor (attach as PDF): a letter from the applicant's major professor must affirm that he/she has read the RFA, reviewed the student's proposal, and approves the student's application to the program. *It is strongly encouraged that the major professor comprises part of the student's mentorship group, although not required.*

Support letters from mentor(s) (attach as PDFs): a letter of support **from each mentor** must be submitted with the application. The letter should describe the appropriateness of the proposed work and how it aligns with the experience/interest of the mentor(s). The letter should also clearly describe the mentor(s) funding source for 25% of the funding requirements. This year mentor matching grants are available to UCCE county advisors interested in serving as mentors (see below).

Bio-Sketch (attach as PDF): a 1-2 page bio sketch outlining the student's relevant academic and professional experience and training is required.

Mentor Plan: no longer than one page. The mentor plan should lay out a strategy of how you expect to engage with CE academics and gain experience in conducting outreach and extension. Potential questions to address include: Will you shadow them? How often will you meet? How will the mentor support your project? How will you support the mentor's goals? What materials or publications do you expect to produce? How will you share the insights from your project with stakeholders? In addition to the narrative, provide a tentative timeline with milestones/objectives, and anticipated deliverables that you hope to achieve by the end of your project.

Evaluation Criteria

- How appropriate and well-developed is the partnership with the CE personnel and/or clientele?
- How well developed is the CE component of the proposal? How effective are the delivery methods?
- Is the topic of the project innovative (new or emerging area of research/extension)?
- How well are plans for training with the mentors explicitly described?
- Is the plan for production of research and extension products clearly articulated?
- Is the student committed to/interested in a career in CE or similar?

Timeline

Applications due Friday, March 4, 2016

Student Notification of Decisions, early-mid April 2016

For questions, please visit the following website (<http://ucanr.edu/sites/GGCE/>) and/or contact:

- *Programmatic/content-related inquiries about your application/proposal:*
 - John Battles, Professor in ESPM and Chair of the Graduate Student Extension Program Steering Committee (jbattles@berkeley.edu)
 - Kate Wilkin, Graduate Student and Chair of the Graduate Extension and Outreach Working group (wilkinkate@gmail.com)
- *Technical/system/budget inquiries:*
 - Vanessa Murua, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, UC ANR (Vanessa.murua@ucop.edu)

Table 1. Funding breakdowns for the 2016-2017 Graduate Training in Cooperative Extension Program. Please note that these costs may change depending on stipend and tuition rates set by UC Berkeley.

Timeframe	Total costs	ANR covers 50%	Department 25%	Mentorship group 25%*
Summer	\$10,064	\$5,032	\$2,516	\$2,516
Single Semester	\$18,128	\$9,064	\$4,532	\$4,532
Academic Year	\$36,256	\$18,128	\$9,064	\$9,064
Calendar Year	\$44,308	\$22,154	\$11,077	\$11,077

*Mentor(s) are required to provide one quarter of support for the graduate student. The mentorship group can use any combination of allowable funds/support (e.g. soft funds, local endowments, industry sponsorship).

Mentor(s) must describe how they plan to provide one quarter support in their letter of support/commitment.

The Mentor Matching Grant for UCCE Advisors

The GSE program recognizes the vital expertise of the county advisors in the effective delivery of extension and outreach. We also realize that the required mentor matching funds represent a particularly difficult barrier to advisor participation. In response, the GSE program has secured funding to support requests for mentor matching funds from county advisors.

To apply, potential mentors should ask for a matching grant in their letter of support for the GSE applicant. The request should briefly explain the need for the grant. Requests for full or partial fund matches will be considered. Please note that only UCCE county advisors are eligible for a Mentor Matching Grant.

The Mentor Matching Grant is supported by the UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, and Professor Emeritus Barbara Allen-Diaz.

If you have questions about the Mentor Matching Grant, please contact John Battles at jbattles@berkeley.edu.