

## **Funded Masters Graduate Assistantships at Cal Poly Humboldt**

Beginning August 2022 through May 2024

### **Project Title**

*Coastal Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Communities and Tribes in Cascadia:  
Exploring social, policy, and equity dimensions*

**PI:**

[Jennifer Marlow](#), JD and [Dr. Laurie Richmond](#)

**Affiliation:**

Cal Poly Humboldt, Department of Environmental Science  
and Management and Natural Resources Graduate Program

### **Project Description**

Jennifer Marlow and Laurie Richmond are seeking applicants for two fully-funded Masters degree positions in the Environmental Science and Management graduate program at Cal Poly Humboldt. These students would be part of a larger, multi-state team to participate in ground-breaking research related the social, policy, and equity dimensions of community and Tribal resilience to coastal hazards along the coastline of Cascadia in the Pacific Northwest.

The selected students would conduct research connected to a larger, NSF-funded research hub of more than 70 researchers and practitioners focused on coastal hazards in the region. The Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Research Hub, or Cascadia CoPes hub, answers calls by Pacific Northwest coastal communities and tribes for a coordinated research agenda to help them achieve resilience. Stretching from Cape Mendocino in California through the Salish Sea, the Cascadia subduction zone puts the region at risk from “The Really Big One” – a megaquake. In addition to acute risks of earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides, Cascadia also faces chronic risks including coastal erosion and regional flooding. Climate change is amplifying many of these threats, as sea level rise and weather extremes increase.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the [Cascadia CoPes hub](#) brings together groups interested in coastal resilience from Oregon State University, the University of Washington, University of Oregon, and Cal Poly Humboldt to help coordinate research with and for Pacific Northwest coastal communities and tribes on coastal hazards. With the participation of researchers from across the region, the hub aims to advance interdisciplinary understanding of coastal processes, such as: subduction megaquake frequency, how geological processes influence biodiversity, how tsunamis move debris, best management practices to keep coastal communities connected and protected from hazards, and how and for whom risk governance processes may be exclusionary in the region. To achieve equitable and just outcomes, the Cascadia CoPes hub strives to respect and incorporate traditional and local ecological knowledge.

To assist with the Cascadia CoPes hub research, we are hiring two graduate assistants whose research will focus on the adaptive capacity of communities and tribes in Cascadia. We will conduct this research as a cross-institutional cohort in collaboration with [Dr. José Meléndez](#) and his research team at the University of Oregon. The overarching goal of our joint research is to increase the adaptive capacity of coastal communities to prepare, respond, and recover from chronic and acute hazards by: incorporating diverse identities and world views; responding to local values; anticipating community needs and utilizing local resources; and creating opportunities for inclusive decision-making. Although the graduate research assistants will join a collaborative research team, we anticipate that one graduate student will focus their research/thesis on the law and policy of coastal community resilience and the other graduate student will focus on Tribal perspectives, governance, and sovereignty.

## **Benefits**

- Student in-state tuition\* paid for four semesters while working on the project.
- Monthly stipend for time spent working on the project
- Project related expenses (e.g., travel, equipment) covered
- Skills and training in legal and policy analysis, Tribal governance and sovereignty, equity-centered sea-level rise planning, interviewing, document review, facilitation, conflict resolution, and writing and presenting.
- Ability to connect with an interdisciplinary and diverse network of collaborators through involvement in the Cascadia CoPes hub.
- Ability to live and work in the Humboldt region of the California North Coast, home to numerous Tribal nations, stunning natural resources and recreational opportunities (redwood forests, rocky coastlines, salmon supporting waterways), and a network of researchers and community members interested in addressing complex environmental challenges through equitable and collaborative processes

\*Residents of CA, AK, AZ, CO, CNMI, Guam, HI, ID, MT, NM, ND, OR, UT, WA, WY all pay in-state tuition as part of the Western Regional Graduate Program

## **Minimum Qualifications**

- Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Arts (Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Native American Studies, Policy/Planning, Economics, Political Science, Pre-law, Anthropology, Pre-Law, or related field)
- Qualified applicants must meet all [Cal Poly Humboldt Natural Resources Graduate Student Eligibility Requirements](#) (see prerequisites)
- GRE *not* required
- Excellent writing, analytical, listening, and communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Commitment to principles of equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice
- Ability to conduct summer research in person in Humboldt County

### Preferred Qualifications

- Experience conducting community-engaged research
- Experience with document review and/or law and policy analysis
- Experience working for or with Tribal governments
- Experience with website development and/or GIS
- Experience interfacing with cross-cultural conflict resolution
- Interest in publishing research findings in academic journals

Cal Poly Humboldt is committed to a culture in which all people are welcomed, respected, supported, and valued to fully participate. We welcome and encourage applications from diverse applicants, and consider multiple aspects of diversity. Cal Poly Humboldt is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### To Apply:

Please join the following documents requested into a single PDF:

- Cover Letter detailing your interest in the position and your relevant experience
- Resume
- Unofficial Academic transcript(s)
- One writing sample (no longer than 10-pages; with a preference for independently authored student papers, articles, briefs, memoranda, blog posts, public comments, reports, or other job-relevant writings)
- The names of three references

E-mail all application materials as a single PDF to Dr. Laurie Richmond ([laurie.richmond@humboldt.edu](mailto:laurie.richmond@humboldt.edu)) and Professor Jennifer Marlow ([jennifer.marlow@humboldt.edu](mailto:jennifer.marlow@humboldt.edu)) with "Cal Poly Humboldt CoPe Hub Grad School Position" in the subject line.

### **The Priority Application Deadline is May 1, 2022, at 5pm Pacific Standard Time.**

We will start reviewing applications on this date. We encourage all interested applicants to apply by the priority application deadline. However, we will continue to accept applications after May 1 on a rolling basis until the position is filled. After initial screening, the student will be asked to submit a formal application through CalState apply (<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate>).

*Cal Poly Humboldt is a comprehensive public university with world-class graduate programs in natural resource management, located on the North Coast of California; with access to mountains, beaches, and the largest old growth redwood forests in the world all nearby. Visit [www.humboldt.edu](http://www.humboldt.edu) for more information.*