# Research Assistant job description



*Underwater sculptures by J. de Caires Taylor.*

Dear UCSB students interested in coastal sustainability research,

We are seeking 1 undergraduate-level Research Assistant (RA) to work **full-time this summer** (40 hrs/week at $17/hr, plus fringe benefits at 2.3%) and **part-time during the academic year** (8 hrs/week at $17/hour). You will be doing social science research that examines how children access marine ecosystems and perceive the importance of these ecosystems to their wellbeing. Work will be fast-paced and independent. Creative and critical problem solving skills are essential. Please see the job description below.

**Position:** Research Assistant, Equitable Coasts

**Hours:** Full-time (40 hrs/week) during summer, part-time (8 hrs/week) during academic year

**Pay:** $17/hour plus fringe benefits for full-time summer; $17/hour during academic year

**Duration:** Summer and academic year of 2022, with the possibility to extend through summer 2023 and/or 2023-24 academic year (pending funding)

**Supervisor:** Dr. Tammy Elwell

**Description:** Through my affiliations with UCSB's Marine Science Institute and research centers in Chile, I have just started a 3-year Postdoctoral Fellowship funded by Chile's National Agency for Research & Development and am seeking a Research Assistant (RA) to work with our research team. The RA will work primarily on a project that assesses children and youth's access to marine ecosystems at different spatial scales. This project involves both evidence synthesis (building a comprehensive database of coastal marine policies and programs that explicitly include children and youth) and empirical research. Toward the former global analysis, the RA will help build the database and visualize and communicate findings. Toward the latter regional analysis, the RA will help plan and conduct focus groups with elementary and middle school students in local communities. The work, and research team, is **highly interdisciplinary**. Through this project we aim to identify potential ways to improve children's access to nature in general and marine ecosystems in particular.

The RA will be a core member of the Equitable Coasts project and may also work on my side-projects that focus on the conservation of coastal communities. Our team includes a graduate-level Research Assistant in the Bren School's Master's in Environmental Science & Management, who will help guide and mentor the undergraduate-level RA.

Specifically the undergraduate-level RA will help with the following:

-Collect, organize, visualize, explore, and analyze data (through both evidence synthesis and empirical research)
-Review the literature and summarize state-of-the-art developments
-Design figures, including maps
-Create and update a project web site
-Complete more mundane yet important project management tasks (funding reports)

Duties will evolve as the project develops; I am open to matching tasks to your interests, as much as possible.

**Expectations of RA:** dedicate 40 hrs/week during the summer and 8 hrs/week during the academic year to this project (you manage your own time), commit to 30-min weekly meetings (counts as part of your hours), and communicate respectfully and honestly with team members. **My commitments to RA:** give you flexibility to manage your own time, respect your workers' rights, and communicate respectfully and honestly.

If you are enthusiastic about the position but lack some essential skills below, please apply anyway. Being a motivated creative, critical thinker is the most important qualification. We strongly encourage applications from people whose backgrounds and/or identities are underrepresented in academic research and the environmental sciences. We will remove names from applications when reviewing them to reduce implicit bias.

Essential skills for this position:
- Creative, critical thinker and solution-oriented problem solver
- Self-starter
- Strong organizational skills
- Clear and concise communicator
- Ability to work on multiple projects at the same time and prioritize tasks

Any of the following skills are a plus but not necessary for this position.
- Data exploration and visualization (must possess skills or learn quickly)
- Programming in R or another language
- Statistical analysis
- Fluency in Spanish
- Tableau/similar data visualization software
- GIS (map making)
- Scientific article writing
- Literature review

Interested? Please apply through the Google form with link copied below.

**Application form:** https://forms.gle/wc6Up45MSywDSRg77

**DUE: Sunday, May 22, 2022 by midnight**