

**NOW RECRUITING TWO PHD STUDENTS:
INTERSECTIONS OF AGRITOURISM, EDUCATION, AND POLICY
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT
@ North Carolina State University**

Deadline: Preferred: Feb 15; applications evaluated on rolling basis until position filled

Start date: Fall 2017

Advisors

Agritourism and Policy position: Dr. Whitney Knollenberg: whitney_knollenberg@ncsu.edu

Agritourism and K-12 Education position: [Dr. Kathryn Stevenson](mailto:kathryn_stevenson@ncsu.edu): kathryn_stevenson@ncsu.edu

Both positions will be co-advised by [Dr. Carla Barbieri](mailto:carla_barbieri@ncsu.edu): carla_barbieri@ncsu.edu

To Apply: <https://www.ncsu.edu/grad/applygrad.htm>

We are currently recruiting two PhD students to join a dynamic team working on a USDA AFRI NIFA-funded project to strengthen local food systems through agritourism. Specifically, we will investigate how agritourism - visiting farms for recreation and/or education - may build agricultural literacy among children, and how that knowledge may “trickle up” to parents to encourage purchasing local foods. We will measure the impact of spontaneous farm visits by families (unstructured agritourism) as well as school field trips, both as stand-alone experiences (semi-structured agritourism) and supported by curricular activities (structured agritourism). This project brings together agritourism, K-12 education, and policy through research, education, and extension approaches.

Although the two PhD students will work closely together with the three project PIs, we anticipate two positions associated with two project areas:

Agritourism and Policy Position

Dr. Knollenberg will direct project activities related to the connections between agritourism, education, and food policy. The successful student will coordinate project activities related to unstructured agritourism experiences and policy recommendations. Major deliverables include: identification of agritourism research sites; coordination with agritourism operators; development of a survey instrument to measure impacts of unstructured agritourism experiences; data collection and analysis; preparation of reports, manuscripts, and associated outreach materials; as well as compilation of policy recommendations based upon project findings.

Agritourism and K-12 Education Position

Dr. Stevenson will direct project activities related to educational impacts of agritourism, particularly in K-12 settings. The successful candidate will lead all project activities related to the evaluation of project activities through schools (semi-structured and structured agritourism). Major deliverables will include coordination of teacher professional development workshops; school field trips to agritourism operations; pre- and post-survey administration of students, teachers, and parents; data analysis; preparation of reports, manuscripts, and associated outreach materials.

Stipend

\$18,000 annually, graduate school fees (~\$1,200/semester), health insurance; Assumes 20 hours

dedicated to the project and 20 hours dedicated to coursework.

Responsibilities and Opportunities for the Graduate Research Assistants

- Interdisciplinary engagement. Engage with interdisciplinary research teams and develop new areas of inquiry with faculty advisors and project collaborators. Research activities entail literature reviews, research design, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, and results dissemination.
- Build public and professional networks. Help build and maintain an outreach strategy for the research team that may include building a social media presence and professional relationships with relevant stakeholder groups and community partners. Students will be expected to present results in both professional and community settings.
- Writing. Assist or lead in writing grant proposals, technical and non-technical reports, fact sheets and other public-audience deliverables, and peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Teaching. Students may be asked to train and supervisor undergraduate research assistants and/or serve as a teaching assistant in PRTM courses.
- Self-direction. Maintain good graduate standing and make satisfactory progress toward completion of degree. Students are expected to communicate clearly and to work with advisors to build a mentoring team that can support their career goals and degree progress.

Required Qualifications

The successful candidates will 1) Hold a thesis-based Master's degree in a social science field; 2) Illustrate a vision for integrating the areas of focus for this project (agritourism, K-12 education, and policy) which may build upon a personal passion or expertise in these areas; 3) Demonstrate quantitative data collection and analysis skills; 4) Provide evidence of excellent communication skills (written and oral, in English); 5) Exhibit leadership skills and the ability to work independently and with groups; 6) Possess a passion for the project's subject matter; 7) Have an aptitude for organization and project management and; 8) Meet admissions requirements of the NC State Graduate School (found here: <https://cnr.ncsu.edu/prtm/graduate-programs/phd-in-prtm/>).

Desired Qualifications

The selected applicants will have demonstrated strong interest in interdisciplinary research, experience with education and/or tourism, and an ability to think creatively and learn independently. A background or experience in both qualitative and quantitative social science research methods is desired. Applicants with a degree in another field but who have work and/or volunteer experience that indicates a commitment to addressing relevant social and environmental issues will also be seriously considered.

GENERAL INFORMATION for GRADUATE STUDENT APPLICANTS

About the College of Natural Resources (CNR)

CNR (<http://cnr.ncsu.edu>) is a world leader in the sustainable use of natural resources. CNR's comprehensive approach to teaching, research and service encompasses the many and varied ways in which people's physical, economic and social needs are met through the wise use of natural resources. CNR is committed to interdisciplinary research, teaching and engagement, as nurturing and enjoying the environment and engineering sustainable products go hand-in-hand with helping communities and enterprises thrive. The faculty, staff, students and alumni of CNR are discovering and sharing real world solutions to real world problems every day.

About the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management Department (PRTM)

PRTM (<http://cnr.ncsu.edu/prtm>) is a multidisciplinary department that addresses critical research questions related to the human dimensions of natural and built environments, human health and well-being, equitable and sustainable tourism, as well as geovisualization, spatial analytics, and GIS. The mission of PRTM is to advance and disseminate scholarship concerning management and use of natural and cultural resources for recreation, tourism, and sport through research, teaching and public engagement.

Click here To learn more about the PRTM degrees: <https://cnr.ncsu.edu/prtm/graduate-programs/>

NC State University promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon one's age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status.