

**FUNDED GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP**  
**INTERSECTIONS OF AGRITOURISM, EDUCATION, AND POLICY**  
**PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT**  
**@ North Carolina State University**

**Deadline:** By February 15; applications evaluated on rolling basis until position filled

**Start date:** Spring or Fall 2019

We are currently recruiting a graduate student (PhD preferred) to join a dynamic team working on a USDA AFRI NIFA-funded project to strengthen local food systems through agritourism. Specifically, we are investigating 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 their purchasing of 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. There is currently one PhD student on the project, and we are seeking an additional student. We are looking for someone to jump in to the project who has demonstrated research experience. For that reason, we prefer PhD students, but will consider highly qualified MS students.

The successful candidate will lead all project activities related to the evaluation of school-based agritourism (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; and preparation of reports, manuscripts, and associated outreach materials. The hired student will have his/her own tasks but will work closely with the current PhD student to contribute to all project deliverables. The student’s primary advisor will be [Dr. Kathryn Stevenson](mailto:kathryn_stevenson@ncsu.edu) (kathryn\_stevenson@ncsu.edu), will be co-advised by [Dr. Carla Barbieri](mailto:carla_barbieri@ncsu.edu) (carla\_barbieri@ncsu.edu) and work closely with [Dr. Whitney Knollenberg](mailto:whitney_knollenberg@ncsu.edu) (whitney\_knollenberg@ncsu.edu).

**To Apply:** <https://grad.ncsu.edu/apply/>

**Stipend:** \$18,000 annually, graduate school fees (~\$1,300/semester), health insurance; Assumes 20 hours dedicated to the project and 20 hours dedicated to coursework.

**Responsibilities and Opportunities for the Graduate Research Assistants**

- 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.
- Team player. As a contributor to a complex, multi-year project, ability to work well with others is a must. Contributions to the research team as well as the professional community of the Department are expected.
- 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.

### **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 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. 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.