



## **Graduate Research Assistantship in Park and Protected Area Management**

We are pleased to announce an opportunity for a graduate research assistantship in Penn State's Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management at either the Ph.D. or M.S. level. The graduate student will work with Drs. Newman, Taff, and Miller in the Protected Areas Research Collaborative and will focus on park and protected area management.

Join our team to explore topics involving, but not limited to, visitor use management in national and state parks, soundscapes in national parks, Leave No Trace educational strategies, outdoor recreation, and nature engagement in relation to human health and well-being.

The graduate student will find a wide variety of opportunities to build their professional experience and research skills. This includes projects in places like Grand Teton, Denali, and Death Valley National Parks, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and Pennsylvania State Forests. It also includes collaboration with Penn State's outstanding faculty in the RPTM department, as well as in Biobehavioral Health, Psychology, Ecology, and Acoustics. As home to the Social Science Acoustics Lab, the graduate student can also develop skills related to experimental designs. In all of their work, the graduate student will engage with natural resource managers and scientists outside the university to further develop their skills and build their professional network. Graduate students in the RPTM department also have an option to work towards a dual degree in Human Dimensions and Natural Resources of the Environment.

### **Experience the Penn State Difference**

Penn State is a globally recognized research university, and its graduate programs attract students from more than 100 countries. Established in 1946, Penn State's Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management (RPTM) is one of the most well-respected programs of its kind in the nation. The RPTM program is currently home to students from multiple countries, including Asia, Central America, and Europe. Its multidisciplinary graduate program educates students about research, theory, and practice at individual, societal, and cross-cultural levels. Research in the department also expands to far-ranging corners of the world, including countries like Oman, Tanzania, and Ecuador. Both the M.S. program and the Ph.D. program help students develop an understanding of the social, psychological, and environmental aspects of human behavior.

### **Master of Science (M.S.) Degree**

The M.S. degree is designed for students who wish to continue their studies at the doctoral level at Penn State. Students who wish to pursue a Ph.D. degree but do not have an M.S.

degree will complete a thesis and earn a Master's degree in the process of working toward the doctorate.

### **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree**

The Ph.D. degree provides in-depth preparation for research and teaching positions at the college and university levels as well as higher-level administrative positions with public or private recreation providers. Graduates have also found employment with consulting firms who build off their research expertise.

### **Benefits**

In addition to a tuition waiver and stipend, graduate students are provided with health, dental, and vision insurance. See more about graduate student benefits here:

<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/services/insurance/graduateassistant.shtml>

### **Living in State College, PA**

State College is a great place to live due to cost of living, a feeling of community, and a diversity of recreation opportunities. Affordable housing, easy biking, and walkability add to the relatively low cost of living. The larger State College community has a variety of events, from farmers markets, to art festivals, to local music that creates a sense of community. Large tracks of public lands in Pennsylvania provide recreation opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, fly fishing, cross-country skiing, and water sports.

For more information about the RPTM graduate program and how to apply through the graduate portal, please go to [hhd.psu.edu/rptm/graduate](http://hhd.psu.edu/rptm/graduate) and/or contact Dr. Birgitta Baker ([bbaker@psu.edu](mailto:bbaker@psu.edu)), Professor-in-Charge of the Graduate Program in RPTM.

Review of applications will begin January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Students should be ready to begin work in the summer of 2018.