

Research Assistant in tropical coastal ecosystem services

In the Singapore-ETH Centre (SEC), Asian School of the Environment, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore (NUS)

INVITATION TO APPLY

The Singapore-ETH Centre (SEC), Asian School of the Environment, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore (NUS) invite applications for a Research Assistant in tropical coastal ecosystem services, to begin on 1 January 2018 or soon thereafter. The position will be for a period of 3 years, subject to performance review. The successful applicant will be part of a multi-million dollar project on the topic of 'A Natural Capital Assessment for Singapore'.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The overall aim of the project is to quantify the economic, social, and cultural value of Singapore's environmental assets (its 'Natural Capital'), and present and model the information in such a way that it can inform future policy and urban development. To protect and enhance natural capital in Singapore and secure the long-term foundational benefits from this capital, we need to understand the current status of Singapore's ecosystems, and develop tools to predict the environmental impacts of future urbanization. This will be achieved by:

1. quantifying the current status of Singapore's terrestrial and coastal-marine ecosystems
2. quantifying the value of Singapore's terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems to Society.
3. assessing tradeoffs between urban development (urban assets) and natural capital (natural assets)
4. assessing future policy and development opportunities that integrate natural capital

This project also represents the first national-scale Natural Capital Project to be conducted in the tropics. The key deliverables of the project will be:

1. a report assessing the current status and potential future of Singapore's natural capital
2. a tool for visualizing spatial variation in ecosystem services, trade-offs in ecosystem service provision, and the impacts of future urbanization on ecosystem service provision
3. peer-reviewed publications relating to the Natural Capital Assessment

THE ROLE

The Research Assistant will have knowledge of coastal ecosystem services, or similar coastal environmental issues at the policy-academic interface. S/he will work closely with a Research Fellow and PhD student for the coastal ecosystems Work Package, as well as the PIs to ensure the requirements of the project work plan are met. The

RA will assist in research relating to coastal ecosystem services quantification. The successful applicant will assist in all aspects of the coastal/marine work package. This will include conducting literature reviews of relevant articles and information, managing a database to include ecological and socioeconomic datasets related to marine and coastal natural capital in Singapore, and organise and conduct field work to collect new data.

Job responsibilities:

- Literature review and data compilation of marine/coastal ecosystem services, and relevant policy and stakeholder information
- Coordinate and manage ecological and social datasets
- Organise and conduct ecological and socio-economic field research
- Manage all project-related procurement under guidance of the principal investigator
- Report to and work with the principal investigator
- Any other ad-hoc duties as assigned by the principal investigator

Job requirements:

- Undergraduate degree (second upper) and/or Masters in Life Sciences, Environmental Science, Geography or related fields
- Experience in environmental research
- Experience conducting comprehensive literature reviews
- Experience with qualitative methods (e.g., observations, interviews, etc.) and analysis (e.g., thematic coding, etc.)
- Excellent data management and analysis skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly organized and proactive
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- Positive working attitude, both in a team and independently

Desirable:

- Familiar with geographic information systems and spatial analysis software (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS, R)

ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONS

The Singapore-ETH Centre was established in 2010 by ETH Zurich and Singapore's National Research Foundation, as part of its CREATE campus. The vibrant hub for research aims to provide practical solutions to some of the most pressing problems through its programmes - Future Cities Laboratory and Future Resilient Systems.

Young and research-intensive, Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) is ranked 11th globally and 1st amongst the world's best young universities. The Asian School of the Environment is home to Environmental Sciences at NTU. Our aim is to provide the next generation of Geoscientists, Ecologists and Environmental Sociologists with the training they need to succeed in their chosen career. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ase.ntu.edu.sg>

The QS World University rankings place NUS in the top 15 universities in the world and number one in Asia. In the same rankings the Department of Geography is generally ranked among the top 10 Geography programmes globally. Further information on the Department is available at: <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/geog>

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

1. The appointment will be tenable for a period of three years
2. The position comes with competitive remuneration
3. Singapore citizens and permanent residents are eligible for provident fund benefits

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested scholars should submit the following via email to Dr. Natasha Bhatia (nbhatia@ntu.edu.sg) by 31st October 2017:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae
- Contact details for two references

Applicants will be asked to appear for interview (including over SKYPE). For further information on the project contact the Lead PIs Dr. Dan Friess (dan.friess@nus.edu.sg) and Dr. Natasha Bhatia (nbhatia@ntu.edu.sg)