NOAA & USC Sea Grant
Mappers-in-Training Program
Fall 2018 Field Study

Three spaces available!
- Apply by August 3, 2018 -

In a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the University of Southern California Sea Grant Program is recruiting three participants for a new Mappers-in-Training Program (MiTP) for a Fall 2018 field study in early October; the exact dates are expected to be confirmed by August 1. This program is open to enrolled graduate students.

The internship will include 1-2 days of land-based meetings at the University of Southern California Sea Grant Program offices in Los Angeles, and at the Southern California offices of NOAA and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to orient students to the missions and data needs of these federal agencies. Interns will subsequently spend 11 days aboard the NOAA Ship Rainier mapping the seafloor around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The MiTP will provide the opportunity to gain an understanding of how seafloor maps are used by federal agencies to support the U.S.’s blue economy, and make informed decisions about our coastal and ocean resources. It will also provide the opportunity to gain experience making seafloor maps using advanced multibeam sonar (sound navigation and ranging) systems, while also contributing in a significant way to NOAA’s ocean and coastal mapping mission. Towards the end of their time at sea, interns will be asked to give short presentations describing what they learned during their experience. These presentations will also provide an opportunity to discuss mapping as a career with the NOAA Ship Rainier’s officers, technicians and crew.
**Stipend and Travel Costs**
We anticipate 11 days aboard the NOAA Ship *Rainier* and approximately 1-2 days of land-based preparatory activities. All travel costs will be covered; stipend is approximately $125 per day.

**Preferred Qualifications**
- BS/BA in the sciences/enrolled in a Master’s degree program
- US citizenship
- Basic knowledge of statistics
- Basic knowledge of marine sciences (i.e., marine biology, ecology, or geology)
- Experience or academic training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and/or remote sensing
- Interest in learning about seafloor mapping operations and data applications

**Additional Qualifications/Skills**
- Familiarity with bathymetry and backscatter
- Previous experience with fisheries or sub-bottom sonars
- Previous experience in the acquisition and processing of multibeam data
- Ability to stand an 8-hour at-sea watch
- Familiarity with Windows and Microsoft Office tools

**Medical Clearance and Insurance**
Operations at sea inherently entail some safety risks. Applicants are expected to provide their own medical insurance coverage if selected for a trainee position. Additional medical, offshore or worker’s compensation insurance is not provided by NOAA. Selected applicants will need to complete NOAA’s health screening process which requires completing the NOAA Health Services Questionnaire and providing evidence of a recent Tuberculosis screening. Information about this requirement is available [here](#). Please do not submit any medical information to NOAA until you receive notification of your selection.

**How to apply**
The following information is required as part of the application process:
1. A current resume or Curriculum Vitae.
2. A brief letter of interest (limited to one single-spaced page), which specifically addresses these questions:
   a. Why do you think ocean and coastal mapping is important?
   b. What are your anticipated educational / academic goals for this Mapper-in-Training program?
   c. How do you anticipate that this program will apply to your future academic and/or career pursuits?
3. At least one letter of recommendation. Additionally, please include contact information for your academic or research advisor. Letters of recommendation can be sent directly to Phyllis Grifman, contact below.

All materials should be contained in one PDF and sent to:

Phyllis Grifman, University of Southern California Sea Grant, seagrant@usc.edu

- Application Deadline August 3, 2018 -