



December 18, 2024

Dear Graduate Students:

The USC Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability is pleased to announce the availability of **Visiting Graduate Researcher** openings during the summer of 2025 at the USC Wrigley Institute's campus on Catalina Island, the Wrigley Marine Science Center (WMSC). The purpose of the Wrigley Institute Visiting Graduate Researcher program is to enhance graduate student research towards a degree in environmental, marine, and/or sustainability themes.

These opportunities are available to graduate students who are currently enrolled in a Masters or Ph.D. program during the research period and who have a need to conduct summer research (June through September 2025) at the WMSC or at other locations around Catalina Island, CA. Successful applicants will be offered subsidized [USC Dornsife rates](#) for shared housing, shared lab space, and waterfront privileges at WMSC for up to three months (depending on availability). Additional funding subsidies may be available based on stated funding needs. See full details below.

Priority deadline: Friday, February 14, 2025. Applications will be considered on a limited basis after this date based on availability.

(NOTE: Housing is VERY limited at WMSC each summer! Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.)

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

1. Funding for Wrigley Institute Visiting Graduate Researchers is aimed at graduate students who have a need to conduct their research at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center, or in and around Catalina Island, and are enrolled as full-time graduate students through summer 2025.
2. Each Visiting Graduate Researcher will be provided free boat transportation to/from WMSC on the USC vessel during regular days of operation and use of shared laboratory space, basic research equipment, and housing at the island facility. Cooking facilities are provided in apartments and each student should arrange to provide their own food; meal plans for the WMSC Dining Hall are also available for purchase. All applicable charges will be set according to the [USC Dornsife rate schedule](#); additional subsidies may be considered on an as-needed basis. Students and their faculty advisors must provide a statement about funding availability, as well as confirm ability to cover all costs incurred for the above expenses and any additional expenses during their stay at WMSC. Additional expenses may include usage of small boats, vehicles, meals in the Dining Hall, housing and meals for additional dive buddies (depending on availability), and/or scuba air fill fees (must bring their own dive gear).
3. Visiting Graduate Researchers will be required to participate in a pre-summer orientation and training at the Wrigley Marine Science Center, in-person strongly preferred, to prepare them for their stay on the island. This orientation is planned at WMSC for April 2025 (date TBD). WMSC research staff will provide more information about this orientation upon acceptance to the program.
4. Visiting Graduate Researchers will be invited to hone their outreach skills through a variety of options including: 1) contributing to the Wrigley Institute research blog, intended to chronicle activities at the WMSC and highlight people involved in the research programs; and 2) a public talk and/or poster for the WMSC community about their research, 3) interacting with WMSC undergraduate interns, 4) mentoring in the Institute's NSF-funded summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program; 5) near-peer advising via a graduate panel Q&A session; 6) other communications and outreach activities as appropriate.



5. While in residence at WMSC, Visiting Graduate Researchers will participate in weekly cohort meetings to network with one another and WMSC staff, and to discuss their research progress as well as topical areas of interest. These will be held on island as a hosted luncheon or evening presentation.
6. Upon completion of the summer as a Visiting Graduate Researcher, each student will be required to submit a 2-page close-out report of their summer research activities communicating their overall research themes and summer accomplishments, and a thank you letter. This report must include at least one high-resolution image of the student conducting research.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

To apply, please send the following materials via email to both Dr. Jessica Dutton (jmdutton@usc.edu) AND Dr. John Heidelberg (jheidelb@usc.edu). Priority deadline is **Friday, February 14, 2025**.

- (A) A maximum of a three-page document that includes the following sections:
 - Research summary (max 200 words)
 - Research questions for Summer 2025
 - Appropriateness of conducting this study on Catalina
 - Research significance and impact
 - Tentative dates you hope to visit WMSC (if flexible, please share those details)
 - Approximate research space and/or equipment needed while at WMSC
 - REU mentor (Y/N): Are you interested in mentoring an undergraduate as part of the WMSC summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program? Dates: June 9 - August 15, 2025
 - Current headshot of you – please pick a photo that shows your face (i.e., no sunglasses or hat)
 - A 200-word bio about yourself
- (B) Please also arrange for a letter of support from your faculty advisor to be submitted by the application deadline to jmdutton@usc.edu and jheidelb@usc.edu. Letter must include a statement of funding availability/need, and confirm all costs incurred while at WMSC will be covered.

Reminder: Housing is VERY limited at WMSC this summer! Applicants are encouraged to communicate their interest as soon as possible to maximize chances of housing availability during desired dates.

Applications will be reviewed by a Wrigley Institute Selection Committee. Preference may be given to returning graduate student researchers and those involved in ongoing Wrigley Institute programs (i.e., REU program).

Please direct any questions to:

Dr. Jessica Dutton (jmdutton@usc.edu), Wrigley Institute Executive Director
Dr. John Heidelberg (jheidelb@usc.edu), Wrigley Marine Science Center Director

We look forward to working with you on Catalina Island this summer!