



Arnhold Environmental Undergraduate Fellowship
Spatial planning for area conservation in the face of climate change (SPARC)
Summer 2025

Project Background

In 2021, the University of California Santa Barbara ([UCSB](#)) and Conservation International ([CI](#)) launched the Arnhold UC Santa Barbara-Conservation International Climate Solutions Collaborative to unify their demonstrated expertise and networks to conduct cutting-edge applied research to yield tangible, progressive solutions, and propel the careers of emerging environmental professionals. This partnership includes several applied collaborative research projects aimed at pushing the boundaries on resilient ocean and land conservation. The Collaborative has also created the Arnhold Environmental Fellows program—a powerful opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in collaborative research projects and receive mentorship from experts in the fields of environmental and ecological science.

Climate-driven shifts in both species ranges and in the spatial configuration of threats to biodiversity will affect the success of conservation. In this project, “Spatial planning for area conservation in the face of climate change (SPARC)”, UCSB and CI will further advance the science of spatial planning for projected ecosystem responses to climate change. We will do so through several projects related to 1) climate-proofing conservation reserve networks, 2) evaluating the potential of co-locating multiple land uses (e.g. agriculture & renewable energy; “multifunctional landscapes”) and 3) elucidating how climate and land use change will impact human-wildlife conflict.

We are currently seeking highly motivated part-time undergraduate student fellows to support the above projects. These students will work with Bren faculty Ashley Larsen, CI and international collaborators, and graduate student researchers to produce impactful research.

Responsibilities

During this opportunity and depending on the project, the Fellows will gain experience working on an applied research project and may be responsible for the following activities:

- Gather and synthesize peer-reviewed literature
- Find and manage spatial data related to land use/land cover, agriculture, energy, climate, & biodiversity
- Develop and execute reproducible code for spatial and statistical analyses
- Contribute to presentations and reports

Desired Skills and Experience

- Coursework and/or experience with ecology/conservation

- Experience reviewing and synthesizing peer-reviewed literature
- Experience with or interest in learning GIS
- Experience or interest in learning R and/or Google Earth Engine
- Attention to detail
- Prior research experience

Fellow Selection Criteria

Students will be selected as Arnhold Environmental Fellows based on the following criteria:

- Excellence in environmental and ecological science and research
- Interest, skills, and experience related to the project responsibilities described above
- Registered UCSB undergraduate student in good academic standing

All Fellows are expected to participate in bi-weekly professional development events throughout the summer, a 5-minute flash talk presentation about your project, and other program-related events.

How to Apply

Apply for this position via Handshake with either the: a) job number – 9862012; b) job title – Arnhold Environmental Undergraduate Fellowship: Spatial planning for area conservation in the face of climate change (SPARC); or c) employer – Marine Science Institute. In your application package, please include the following:

1. Your resume including relevant coursework
2. A short cover letter (no longer than one page) that includes information on (a) your project preference, (b) any relevant work or volunteer experience that relates to the desired skills and experience outlined above, and (c) availability for either a part-time or full-time summer fellowship.

For questions, please contact: Jennifer Bone (jebone@ucsb.edu). The Arnhold Environmental Undergraduate Fellow will be paid \$18/hour and will work for 12 weeks from their start date.

Application Deadline: April 28th, 2025