

Employment Opportunity: Social Science Research Assistant

The Social and Economic Analysis branch of the U.S. Geological Survey located in Fort Collins, Colorado is looking for a research assistant to support an interdisciplinary project aimed at improving the usability of post-fire debris flow hazard assessment products by understanding the information needs of emergency managers in southern California. The results of this project will directly influence the development of decision support tools. Key tasks include: (a) conducting interviews with emergency managers and related stakeholders (b) analyzing qualitative data using thematic coding, (c) writing a final report and executive summary.

The USGS Social and Economic Analysis Branch is a dynamic, collegial group of social scientists and economists providing applied social science for a range of government agencies (<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/fort/science/social-and-economic-analysis-sea>). The research assistant will have the opportunity to interact with Branch scientists, project partners from other institutions and government agencies, and collaborating natural scientists.

The research assistant should be currently enrolled in a Masters or PhD program (or a recently graduated Masters student) in environmental studies, geography, natural resources, or other relevant social science field.

The research assistant must have:

- Experience conducting social science and knowledge of relevant social science theory.
- Demonstrated ability to independently collect and analyze qualitative interview data.
- Excellent writing ability.

Our preferred candidate will have:

- A degree related to and/or experience with natural hazards and/or environmental/ emergency management.
- Experience with any of the following: other qualitative social science research methods, usable science or coproduction research, decision support tools, NVIVO software, and interdisciplinary research environments.
- Knowledge of geologic processes generally or debris flows/mass movements specifically.

This position is a USGS Student Services contract position. This means:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens
- Applicants must either have graduated with a master's degree within the past year or be currently enrolled as a student.
- For all legal purposes, student is regarded as an independent contractor. Payments for services are reportable and taxable as earned income. No Federal, State, or Local income taxes will be deducted. No Social Security or Medicare taxes will be deducted. Student is responsible for payment of all taxes. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will report the total amount paid under this order to the Internal Revenue Service on a Standard Form 1099. The student is not considered an employee and will not receive a W-2 form.

The work schedule is part-time and flexible and would be ideally suited to a current student who wants to work up to full time over the summer and could continue approximately 15-20 hours/week into next academic school year. We are looking for someone available beginning in June or July 2021. The pay rate for this position is determined by level of education completed and ranges from \$36.20 per hour to \$43.40 per hour.

Currently there are 333 hours allocated to completing the required tasks. Additional time may be allocated based on availability and performance evaluations. Work on the initial task may be completed remotely. An increase in duration of the contract may require location to Fort Collins.

Contact Information:

For questions related directly to the job, contact Katie Clifford, Research Social Scientist, at krclifford@usgs.gov.

To Apply:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, transcripts (unofficial ok), and a writing sample demonstrating your ability to interpret qualitative data to krclifford@usgs.gov by 8:00 AM (Mountain Time) Monday, April 19th. Please use "Social Science Research Assistant Application" as the subject line for your email.