



California Ecology and Conservation

immerse yourself
in the *process* and *practice* of science

Spend 7 weeks at UC Natural Reserves
Earn 19 quarter/15 semester units

Intensive instruction in:
hypothesis development • statistics
experimental design • public speaking
• scientific writing and publication

Apply at www.ucnrs.org

 Natural Reserve System
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Dear UC Riverside Community,

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the Summer 2018 offering of the UC Natural Reserve System field course, [California Ecology and Conservation](#). **Applications can be found [here](#) and are due on February 5, 2017** so please spread the word!

This relatively new program, launched in Fall 2015, has been a tremendous success. Students from across the UC system have gained strong independent scientific research skills while immersed in the training grounds of the UC natural reserves, from Big Sur to the Mojave Desert, from coastal redwoods to California grasslands to high altitude bristlecone pines. Check out [this video](#) and [this article](#) to get glimpses of what students are calling the most rewarding experience in their undergraduate careers.

"I've never felt so confident in not only forming questions about the world around me, but also in my ability to turn those into testable hypotheses," said a recent UC Davis student. "On top of that, I've learned so much about myself and gained confidence in my path. I don't think I've ever had so many 'best-day-of-my-life' experiences in such a short period of time. I'm so much more confident that field ecology is the path for me! Between the connections and skills I've gained of the last 50 days, I couldn't be more prepared."

California Ecology and Conservation brings together 27 undergraduates from across the UC system for seven weeks of intensive learning at NRS reserves. Experienced field instructors help undergraduates transform into scientists. Students complete a series of increasingly independent research studies while learning to notice natural patterns, frame questions into feasible research projects, and practice standard field techniques. At the conclusion of each project, students analyze their data and present their findings in oral presentations and written reports. Students hone their research, public speaking, and scientific writing skills with constant practice and feedback. All the while, students gain a working familiarity with California's diverse ecosystems.

All UC undergraduates who have a 2.5+ GPA, are in good standing with their home campus, and have successfully completed an introductory biology course are eligible to apply.

More information is available on the [course website](#). As always, I am happy to answer any questions you might have about the program.

Please distribute this email widely and share this exciting program with your students. I've attached two documents for you to share with students- one is a general flyer for you to print and post and the other lists how the course units map onto various degree programs at your campus. If students from majors not listed are interested in taking the course, they can petition their departments to receive credits toward their major, minor, and GE requirements. Additional flyers can be found [here](#).

Thanks so much!

Donna Seaward
Administrative Officer
UC Natural Reserve System