Research Learning Contract

This document is a guide to set clear expectations for an undergraduate student and their research mentor.

At the start of the student's involvement in the research project, the student and mentor can fill out this agreement together. This process shapes a conversation about expectations, responsibilities, and effective communication between student and mentor. Both parties should maintain a copy to refer back to.

Student

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| --- | --- |
| Name: | Enrui (Ryan) Yang |
| Contact information: | enrui\_wang@ucsb.edu |

Mentor

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | Zoe Zilz |
| Contact information: | zilz@ucsb.edu |

Project

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title: | Project ECOTONE – Schmidt Mentorship Fellowship |
| Timeframe for student involvement: | Summer 2023, with potential for extension to the 2023/2024 academic year |

Expectations

Hours and work location:

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| --- |
| 10 hours a week, asynchronous |

Student’s responsibilities and specific tasks:

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| Ryan will assist with the identification of animals in camera trap footage using a platform called Wildlife Insights. He will also use his expertise in time series analyses to assist the graduate student in the creation of a temporal analysis of wildlife behavior and abundance at coastal sites using camera trap data.  Ryan may also perform data analyses to address questions of his choosing with respect to the camera trap data (includes animal movement, animal behavior, animal diet, anthropogenic activity). Ryan also has the option to occasionally (about once a month) assist the graduate student (Zoe) with fieldwork activities such as maintaining camera traps and field surveys. |

Specialized training and certifications the student is expected to complete (for example human subjects or HIPAA training):

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| --- |
| Register for Approved Wildlife Insights account. |

## 

Communication Plan

## What is the best way for the student to contact the mentor with questions?

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| --- |
| Text, email |

## What is the best way for the mentor to contact the student?

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## What are the agreed-upon reasonable response times?

|  |
| --- |
| 12 hours |

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## Will there be regular check-in meetings? If so, how often?

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| --- |
| Yes, every other week [insert day and time here] |

## 

Resources and Assistance

Who else should the student turn to for assistance on this project? (e.g. graduate students, other students. Please see the bottom of the document for a list of campus-wide resources available to all students.)

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| Generally Ryan should expect to be assisted by Zoe, but can also contact the faculty PI, Dr. Hillary Young. |

Should issues be communicated to the mentor immediately, after reasonable attempts to solve independently, or held until the next regular meeting?

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| --- |
| Immediately |

Does the student need to get the mentor's permission before presenting this research at a conference and/or submitting it for publication?

|  |
| --- |
| yes |

## 

Outcomes

What skills will the student gain or develop through their work on this project?

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| --- |
| Ryan will gain wildlife identification skills, understanding of the inner workings of a wildlife research project, and build upon his existing data science skills with respect to ecological applications. He will also develop skills in collaboration and informal presentation of research via a presentation to the Schmidt Family Foundation upon completion of this contract. |

How will progress towards these goals be assessed?

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| --- |
| Ryan will be expected to complete data analysis towards at least one independent question, create one data visualization (time series of animal abundance), and assist in the creation and presentation of one short talk summarizing our results for the Schmidt family. |

Evaluation Plan

If the student is enrolled in credit hours for this research, how will the final grade be determined?

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| --- | --- |
| If Ryan successfully completes the above, he will receive an A in EEMB 199. |  |

#### 

#### Signatures

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##### Student:

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##### Mentor:

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## Resources available to undergraduate researchers

###### Students who seek additional outside guidance during their research are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities.

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###### For a comprehensive list of resources available to all UCSB students please visit: https://transitions.ucsb.edu/resources/campus

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