

IGERT Program on Ocean Change (iPOC)

<http://depts.washington.edu/igertpoc/>

New Traineeships Available for AY 15-16

Application Deadline: Feb 17, 2015

Programmatic Goal

The IGERT Program on Ocean Change trains students to use integrative, cross-disciplinary, and cross-scale approaches to investigate problems of ocean change. Trainees will engage in interdisciplinary collaborations to address issues such as ocean condition, biological and ecological response to changing ocean conditions, their impacts on human institutions and welfare, and opportunities to build resilience in social-ecological systems.

Resources Available

Six to eight traineeships are available for participation beginning AY 2015-16. Traineeships cover eight quarters of graduate study and consist of a stipend of \$7,500 per quarter plus tuition. Trainees may apply for additional program funds to help support research at home and abroad. Beyond the eight quarters of IGERT support, each trainee *must be supported from departmental or other sources of funds through completion of their degree.*

Program Requirements

IGERT trainees must be committed to interdisciplinary learning. In addition to completing degree requirements in their home departments, IGERT trainees will complete courses in human dimensions, policy processes, ethics, and science communication. They will attend and help coordinate seminars on campus offered through iPOC and the Program on Climate Change and will participate in a short summer retreat at Friday Harbor Laboratories. Trainees in each cohort will work on a common problem of their own choosing to produce a publication or another product appropriate to the problem.

Eligibility

Students from any UW school or department are eligible to apply. Independent of home department, students **MUST** pursue dissertation research that is consistent with the themes of iPOC program. The dissertation advisor must approve of the student's participation in the program.

Applicants must be concurrently enrolled in or applying to a Ph.D. program at the University of Washington. Priority will be given to applicants in the first three years of their Ph.D. program.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

Application Process

We welcome applications from those whose interests concern physical, chemical, biological, or ecological change in the ocean, atmospheric drivers of ocean change, or social change as a cause or consequence of ocean change.

1. Prospective Students: We request that applications from new students (those applying for admission to home departments beginning in AY 2015-16) *be directed to the IGERT selection committee by admissions committees or in consultation with cognizant faculty, as follows:*

a. **For prospective students applying for admission to SAFS or OCN:** The admissions committees of SAFS and OCN will forward to the IGERT program applications from 2-4 students from each department that meet the admissions requirements of the home department and most closely meet the goals and criteria of the IGERT program. Please make the admissions committee aware that you would like your application file forwarded to the IGERT program.

b. **For prospective students applying for admission to other departments:** Please provide your application materials directly to the IGERT Program Coordinator. We encourage you to consult with the appropriate IGERT faculty member(s) in advance of submission.

2. Existing Students: Students already enrolled in a Ph.D. program at UW can apply to the program directly. Students should be in the early- to middle stages of their degree program. Students must be enrolled in a Ph.D. program; Master's students *are not eligible*. **Applications from existing students are due by Feb 17, 2015, and should be directed to Program Coordinator Tiffany Dion at igertpoc@uw.edu. Please included "iPOC Application" in the subject line.**

Evaluation Criteria:

The IGERT selection committee will make awards based on criteria listed below. Our goal is to build **diverse, functional cohorts** of students that will contribute to and benefit from this graduate training program. Note that the students who best fit the IGERT program may not necessarily be the top applicants to strictly disciplinary programs.

The IGERT Program seeks to distribute awards across units over the lifetime of the program, but awards *will not necessarily be made to every department in each year of the program*. **The IGERT Program especially welcomes students who meet NSF criteria for underrepresented groups. Underrepresented minorities, persons with disabilities, and women are especially encouraged to apply. Students must be U.S. citizens.**

Applicants will be scored based on their **academic preparation and academic record, evidence of prior achievements, goodness of fit with program**

objectives, and promise of meeting these objectives:

- active, collaborative learning across natural science, policy, and institutional dimensions of ocean change;
- use of natural science to address socially-defined problems;
- engagement outside the University with entities affected by ocean change, for example Native American Tribes and coastal communities;
- international experiences to broaden perspective and sharpen skills;
- communication with policy-makers;
- mentoring of undergraduate students;
- record of academic achievement and promise of professional success.

Required Elements

Each application should include the following:

- Brief cover letter
- A copy of the graduate application as submitted to the admitting department or school, including transcripts, GRE scores, and statement of research interests. *Note: letters of recommendation submitted as part of your application to the Graduate School are confidential and are not required or used by the IGERT program*
- Personal statement describing your interest in and commitment to interdisciplinary education and research with respect to ocean change. How will the IGERT program advance your educational and professional goals? What will you contribute to the program? (1000 words maximum)
- Letter of support from your UW faculty advisor or prospective faculty advisor

Questions?

Please contact Tiffany Dion at igertpoc@uw.edu