Position Announcement
Research Assistant
Blue Food Assessment

Are you interested in the nexus between ocean science and policy? Do you want to help build tangible solutions for challenges facing our oceans? If so, we invite you to apply for a Research Assistant position with the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions. We are looking for a research assistant to work at the intersection of environmental science, sustainability, and food system transformation, focusing on the role of seafood in the global food system.

The Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS), part of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, catalyzes research innovation and action to improve the health of the oceans for the people who depend on them the most. COS capitalizes on Stanford’s broad expertise in ocean science and in the many other disciplines crucial to developing ocean solutions including engineering, computer science, political science, design and business. Our core team of researchers and fellows partner with other research institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations, businesses and governments, as well as established and emerging leaders across fisheries, the food system and nutrition.

The research assistant (RA) will be part of a larger project – the Blue Food Assessment (BFA) – that improves our understanding of the role of aquatic foods in our food systems, with the aim to shift our policies and practices. The BFA will consist of a series of high-profile papers and a summary for policymakers that distills key findings for decision-makers. The RA will primarily provide literature review and policy analysis support on several of these papers, focusing on topics like the inclusion of social equity concepts in national policies and the impacts of climate change on global food systems. This position is a great opportunity to work with an international and interdisciplinary team of scientists on pressing societal questions and to hone primary research skills.

Job Description & Duties
The primary responsibility of the Research Assistant is to support research efforts on two separate papers, one on issues of justice associated with the production, distribution and consumption of aquatic foods around the world, and one on the impacts of climate change on food system outcomes. Work will be conducted mostly under the supervision of Drs. Liz Selig, Zach Koehn and Michelle Tigchelaar. Specific tasks include:

- Review national policies for their inclusion of key justice concepts using a keyword-based scoring metric
- Review the literature to identify and assess the various pathways through which climate change impacts the aquatic food sector
- Synthesize research findings in written materials for internal and external communication purposes
Qualifications
We seek a self-starting Stanford University graduate student or recent masters-level graduate in a relevant field with the following interests and experience:
● Familiarity with fisheries, environment, food or justice related issues is preferable
● Passion for ocean science, policy and food systems
● Detail-oriented work methods
● Experience in literature review methods and practices
● Strong communication and technology skills (e.g., Microsoft suite, Google applications, Slack)
● Ability to work independently, while also knowing when to seek guidance from colleagues

Hours and Compensation
This position requires a commitment for Stanford’s 2020 fall quarter with possible extension and ranges from 12–20 hours per week depending on candidate availability, beginning in September. Anticipated compensation starts at $19/hour and will vary depending on experience. As this position involves connecting with international communities, some limited early evening or morning hours may be necessary. The work will be completed remotely.

Preferred Start Date
September 2020

To apply
Please email 1) a letter of interest providing background on your experience and applicable skills; 2) a resume outlining your education and professional experience; and 3) contact information for three references to: Blue Food Assessment, Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions: bluefoodra@stanford.edu. Please include “COS BFA RA Application” in the email subject line.

Deadline
Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on September 1st. The position will remain open until filled.