

## Program Policy Statement

# PhD ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

*School of Marine Science & Policy  
College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment  
University of Delaware  
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November 11, 2021

## I. Program Purpose

### A. *Statement of Purpose*

The School of Marine Science & Policy offers an interdisciplinary PhD degree in environmental economics.<sup>1</sup> The degree focuses on the intersection of economics and the environment with the intention of training students to inform decision-making in environmental policy in a practical and socially beneficial way. The degree is designed to be applied broadly to environmental issues, but the program's home in the School of Marine Science & Policy (SMSP) in particular offers strengths in interdisciplinary and marine applications such as fisheries, offshore energy, coastal land use, sea level rise, and climate change.<sup>2</sup>

The degree is oriented around research. It is designed to train students in state-of-the-art economics and policy analysis pertaining to environmental issues, with an emphasis on quantitative approaches. The degree is designed to be completed in five years. PhD students take microeconomic theory and econometric courses at the same level as PhD students in the Department of Economics. They form an advisory committee and write a dissertation following the guidelines consistent with other PhD degrees in the SMSP (committee formation, qualifying exams, dissertation proposal and defense, etc.).

Students graduating with the PhD are prepared to design and conduct research in environmental economics to inform public and private sector decision-making. They have a command of economic concepts as they relate to managing the environment, including the design of research questions, use of advanced quantitative analytical skills, data handling, model estimation and interpretation, and communication of analysis results to decision-makers. Their understanding of economic principles is coupled with background (coursework) in the policy-making process and the natural environment. Examples of job placement include academia, post-docs, government (all levels), and the private sector (consulting, think tanks, and industry).

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<sup>1</sup> A MS in Environmental Economics is also offered and is the subject of a separate Program Policy Statement.

<sup>2</sup> A MS in Environmental Science & Management (ES&M) is also offered in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment. It has some overlap with the Environmental Economics degree and shares some of the same course work. ES&M is oriented toward students with natural science backgrounds and an interest in resource management.

***B. Date of Permanent Status***

Fall 2022

***C. Degrees Offered***

PhD Environmental Economics

***D. Term when first students may enroll***

Fall 2022

***E. Student demand for the program***

The market for the degree is strong. The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS) makes annual projections of job prospects in different fields. For economists, the projected growth rate is 14% from 2019 to 2029. For environmental scientists and specialists, the projected growth rate is 8%. For comparison, across all occupations the projected growth rate is 4% over this period. [CareerOneStop](#) projects 1,600 job openings annually for environmental economists in the United States through 2029. LinkedIn presently (2021) advertises 691 job openings that mention economics and the environment, and Indeed.com mentions 666. By most measures, the field is growing and doing so at a faster-than-average pace for other professional fields.

The BLS writes about economics that “[j]ob prospects should be best for those with a master’s degree or Ph.D., strong analytical skills, and experience using statistical analysis software.” These are all skills at the core of the PhD degree. The BLS also writes about economics that “... demand is expected to be strong ... as organizations increasingly turn to economists to apply analysis of “big data” to pricing, advertising, and other areas. The increasing complexity of the global economy and a more competitive business environment also are expected to support demand for economists.” About Environmental Scientist & Specialists, they write “[h]eightedened public interest in the hazards facing the environment, as well as increasing demands placed on the environment by population growth, are projected to spur demand for environmental scientists and specialists. Many jobs will remain concentrated in state and local governments, and in industries that provide consulting services. Scientists and specialists will continue to be needed in these industries to analyze environmental problems and develop solutions that ensure communities’ health.” [SustainableEarth.com](#) draws similar conclusions and specifically mentions advertised job titles that fit our proposed program: Environmental Economist, Natural Resource Economist, Principal Associate, Principal Research Economist, Resource Economist, Senior Economist, Agricultural Economist, Ecological Economist, Energy Economist, Environmental Protection Economist, and Marine Resource Economist.

An analysis done by Professional and Continuing Studies at UD in January 2022 (uploaded with this proposal) using the Burning Glass Technologies Labor Insight tool showed that, over the last ten years, the number of yearly job postings in the Mid-Atlantic region for environmental economics has grown from 42,287 to 57,303 in the last 10 years – an increase of about 36%.

These numbers include job announcements at all levels, but this is a large market with steady growth.

Around the country, several programs offer degrees like the one proposed here. They vary in terms of home college, focus, structure, and curriculum. In all cases there is close association (usually affiliation) with economics and agricultural economics departments in the school. Here are some examples.

The PhD Environmental Science & Policy in the [Bren School at the University of California](#): Bren allows students to supplement their PhD Environmental Science & Policy with an emphasis on Economics & Environmental Science. Students take a six-course sequence in economics and econometrics and work with faculty in the Bren School on an environmental economics-oriented dissertation. The course offerings are similar to ours.

The PhD Forestry & Environmental Science in the [Forestry School at Yale University](#): Yale's Forestry School offers a PhD Forestry & Environmental Science with a focus on environmental economics. Students do most of their coursework in the economics department and work with advisors in the forestry school.

The PhD Environmental Economics & Natural Resources at [University of Rhode Island](#): URI's program is closest to ours in the degree offerings. Like our degree, their environmental economics degree is not embedded as a specialization within another degree. Also, like us, URI has strengths in marine resources, and the coursework is similar.

Our long-term target is 4-6 PhD students (1 to 2 in each incoming class). The PhD count is driven by funding (grants, fellowships, etc.). Its predecessor, the PhD Marine Policy typically admitted 1 or 2 students when it was operating at full capacity. This is a useful benchmark.

*F. College and School in which program will reside*

School of Marine Science & Policy in the College of Earth Ocean and the Environment.  
All relevant core faculty are on the Newark campus.

## **II. Admission**

*A. Admission Requirements*

Admission is competitive. It is based on grades, letters of recommendation, and an application essay. A GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale is expected. International students must have a TOEFL score of 90 or higher. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) may be taken in lieu of the TOEFL exam. The University of Delaware requires an overall band score of 6.5 or higher on the IELTS, with no individual speaking score being less than 6. Alternatively, international student applicants can show proof of having graduated from an undergraduate or graduate program in a country where English is the primary language. TOEFL or IELTS scores must be within the last two years. The SMSP Graduate Committee evaluates each applicant for

admission. The Committee reserves the right to interview applicants, but it is not required for admission.

A student may be admitted to the program with or without an MS. Students admitted to the program with an MS from another department at UD or from another university may have course requirements at the MS level waived toward the PhD. The student will be informed as to which classes will be waived upon admission. The Graduate Committee will make the determination of which courses are waived. Students with an MS Environmental Economics at UD will have all relevant overlapping credit hours applied toward the PhD.

***B. Prior Degree Requirements***

A four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree (or its equivalent) in any academic field from an accredited college or university is required.

***C. Application Deadlines***

January 30 for priority fall admission (with April 15 as a final deadline)

July 1 for fall admission in special circumstances

December 1 for spring admission in special circumstances

***D. Special Competencies***

Applicants may come from any undergraduate/graduate major. Majors in economics, mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics, or engineering are good backgrounds but not required. At least one course in each of calculus, statistics, and microeconomics is expected. Additional coursework in linear algebra is helpful. Students may attend an optional math boot camp in the Economics Department the summer (August) before arriving.

***E. Admission Categories***

Students admitted without a master's degree.

Students admitted with an MS Environmental Economics at UD.

Students admitted with a master's degree other than an MS Environmental Economics at UD.

***F. Other Documents***

Applicants must submit the following:

- All official undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate transcripts
- A resume or curriculum vitae that documents prior work experience, publications, honors, and awards received and a summary of educational credentials.
- A personal statement laying out professional goals and reasons for applying
- Three letters of recommendation
- International student applications must include TOEFL (or IELTS) scores and certified English translation of all materials (if applicable)

### ***G. University Statement***

Admission to the graduate programs is competitive. Those who meet stated requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements (except the foreign language minimum) necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

## **III. Academic**

### ***A. Degree Requirements***

#### ***1. Course Requirements***

Students are admitted in three ways: (1) without a master's degree, (2) with an MS Environmental Economics from UD, and (3) with a master's degree other than Environmental Economics from UD. The requirements for each are listed in the tables below.

Students being admitted without a master's degree are granted the MS Environmental Economics when the necessary coursework (33 credit hours) is completed. Students with the MS Environmental Economics from UD must formally apply for the PhD through the usual UD admission process. Students being admitted with a master's degree other than the MS Environmental Economics from UD receive a *Plan of Study* delineating which course requirements in the PhD curriculum are waived based on their prior master's degree and which are not with the requirement that no fewer than 21 credit hours is taken (including the dissertation requirement).

***PhD Environmental Economics***  
***(Admitted without a master's degree)***

<i>Area</i>	<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
<b><i>Economic Theory</i></b>	ECON 811 Microeconomic Theory I ECON 813 Microeconomic Theory II	6
<b><i>Environmental &amp; Resource Economics Core</i></b>	MAST 675/ECON 675 Natural Resource Economics MAST 676/ECON 676 Environmental Economics MAST 688 Climate Change Economics	9
<b><i>Quantitative Methods and Econometrics</i></b>	ECON 822 Econometric Theory I ECON 823 Econometric Theory II	6
<b><i>Natural Systems</i></b>	MAST 610 Coupling Human to Natural Systems Substitution of another science course is allowed with approval by advisor.	3
<b><i>Policy Analysis</i></b>	Choose one of the following: UAPP 701 Public Policy UAPP 707 Public Policy Analysis	3
<b><i>Electives</i></b>	Other relevant courses at the graduate level as approved by the advisor. Here are some <u>example</u> courses:  APEC 805 Behavioral Economics APEC 820 Experimental Economics MAST 672 Benefit-Cost Analysis MAST 639 Renewable Energy & Climate ECON 845 Development Economics SPPA 721 Data Science Tools for Evidence-Based Policy	18
<b><i>Dissertation</i></b>	MAST 969 Dissertation Research	9
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>54</b>

***PhD Environmental Economics***  
***(Admitted with a MS Environmental Economics from UD)***

<i>Area</i>	<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
<b><i>Economic Theory</i></b>	ECON 813 Microeconomic Theory II	3
<b><i>Quantitative Methods and Econometrics</i></b>	ECON 822 Econometric Theory I ECON 823 Econometric Theory II	6
<b><i>Elective</i></b>	Other relevant course at the graduate level approved by advisor. Here are some <u>example</u> courses:  APEC 805 Behavioral Economics APEC 820 Experimental Economics	3

	MAST 672 Benefit-Cost Analysis MAST 639 Renewable Energy & Climate ECON 845 Development Economics SPPA 721 Data Science Tools for Evidence-Based Policy	
<b>Dissertation</b>	MAST 969 Dissertation Research	9
	<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>	<b>21</b>

**PhD Environmental Economics**  
(Admitted with a master’s degree other than a MS Environmental Economics from UD)

<i>Area</i>	<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
<b>Plan of Study</b>	Any course listed above in the “PhD Environmental Economics (Admitted without a master’s degree)” that is not waived by the Graduate Committee must be taken. This must be at least 12 credit hours.	To be determined by the Plan of Study  (Minimum of 12)
<b>Dissertation</b>	MAST 969 Dissertation Research	9
	<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>	To be determined by the Plan of Study  <b>Minimum of 21</b>

**2. Other Requirements**

Residency

Students are expected to be in residence, on campus for the fall and spring semesters – 5 years for students entering without a master’s degree, 3 years (beyond the initial 2) for students entering with an MS Environmental Economics at UD, and at least 3 years for students entering with a master’s degree other than Environmental Economics at UD.

Qualifying Exams

Students take one qualifying exam under the direction of their advisor. The exam includes written and oral components. The exam is tailored to the student’s area of interest and is used to assess competency for PhD candidacy. It is designed by the advisor with approval by the committee and is graded pass/fail by the committee. It is taken after the coursework if completed.

Seminars

Students are expected to actively participate in brownbag lunches and seminars on and off campus in a way that is beneficial to their graduate education. SMSP has a student travel budget that students may use for presentation of papers/posters off-campus. Students apply to the School Director for these funds. Students report their activity in professional development on their annual progress report.

English Proficiency

English proficiency is required. All written and oral communication is in English.

Other

There is no portfolio, language, teaching, or internship requirement.

**3. Procedure for petitions for variance in degree requirements**

All petitions for variances in the degree requirements are handled by the SMSP Graduate Committee. Requests must be made in writing to the Chair of the SMSP Graduate Committee. The request should explain why the variance is sought and include written support from at least one SMSP faculty member. The committee reviews the request and issues a written determination for the student's record.

**4. Grade minimums in courses that are different from university policy**

Minimums follow university policy.

**5. Courses which may not be used towards the degree**

All pre-candidacy credits and sustaining credits may not be used toward the degree. Electives must be approved by advisor.

**6. Expectations of facility of expression in English**

English proficiency is required. All written and oral communication is in English.

**B. Committees for exams, thesis, or dissertations**

**1. Procedure for advisor assignment**

A faculty advisor is assigned to each incoming PhD student. The assignment is based on research interests and is done with the agreement of the student and the faculty member. The advisor may be changed at any time during a student's tenure. This is done in consultation with the current advisor and proposed new advisor. The change must be approved by the School Director.

**2. Student committee and procedures for selecting committee members**

The PhD student and his/her advisor create an advisory committee before the qualifying exam and dissertation proposal. This is the only student committee required. The committee consists of



at least four members, but not more than six. At least one member of the committee must be a core faculty member of the SMSP and at least half of the committee members (but no less than three) must be either core or joint faculty in the SMSP. Only core or joint appointees may serve as committee chairs, except in the case of a professor who has, prior to retirement, been the advisor of a student when that student's committee was formed. At least one member of the committee must be external to the SMSP. Students are encouraged to seek the external member from outside the University to broaden the perspective of the committee.

### ***3. Deadlines for establishing and preparation for qualifying examinations***

A qualifying examination is required to obtain admission to candidacy for the PhD. The student must be in good academic standing, have completed all in-classroom coursework, and have the approval of the advisory committee before taking the exam. The exam is tailored to the student's research interests and aligns with his/her dissertation. In this sense it is a "field" exam. It includes written and oral parts and tests the student's preparedness for PhD candidacy. The exam is prepared and administered by the advisor and is approved by members of the advisory committee. The advisor informs the student of the areas to be examined and the format of the written and oral parts 60 days prior to the exam.

### ***4. Policies for dates of examinations, grading of committee examinations and retake options***

For students entering without a master's, the qualifying exam is taken before the end of the sixth semester. For students entering with a MS Environmental Economics, the exam is taken before the end of the third semester. For students entering with another master's, the semester is laid out in the student's *Plan of Study*. (See time below in sections C.1.) The written part of the exam is taken first. The oral part must be taken within two weeks of taking the oral exam. The exam format is determined by the advisor in consultation with the committee. The exam is graded by the advisory committee under the direction of the advisor. If the student fails the exam, it may be retaken one time and must be within six months of the notification of failing. Again, the advisor informs the student the reasons for failure and the areas to be examined in the retake. The second exam may be a full or partial retake (e.g., written only, oral only, or narrower focus). The student submits documentation of results to the Graduate Committee. The student is admitted into PhD candidacy after the exam is passed.

### ***5. Guidelines for approving research proposals involving human subjects***

Students engaged in research involved in human subjects are expected to complete the appropriate [Institutional Review Board](#) (IRB) training and follow IRB guidelines as they pertain to their research. Details for creating consent forms and submitting studies for review by the IRB can be obtained from the Office of Research. The research cannot proceed until IRB approval has been obtained. IRB forms also require the approval of the student's advisor.

## ***6. Procedures for dissertation approval***

### ***The Dissertation Proposal and its Defense***

PhD students must defend a dissertation proposal. For students entering without a master's, the dissertation proposal is defended before the end of the sixth semester. For students entering with a MS Environmental Economics, the proposal is defended before the end of the third semester. For students entering with another master's, the semester is laid out in the student's *Plan of Study*. (See time below in section C.1. and C. 3-4.) The student's advisory committee serves as the examining board. A written proposal is provided to the members of the committee in advance. The committee members approve or disapprove the proposal for defense. Once approved, an oral defense is scheduled. The candidate then defends the proposed research before the committee. The student presents the proposed research and responds to questions from the committee. The defense is 45 to 90 minutes long and is organized and led by the student's advisor. Immediately following the defense, the dissertation committee meets to decide whether the proposal is accepted, rejected, or accepted with conditions. The final determination is from the advisor in consultation with the committee. Results are presented to the student immediately following the defense. At the discretion of the advisor, the student may initiate the defense process as many times as needed to pass. The student submits documentation of results to the Graduate Committee.

### ***The Dissertation and its Defense***

PhD students must write and defend a dissertation. The student's advisory committee serves as the examining board. The written dissertation is provided to the members of the committee in advance. The committee members approve or disapprove the dissertation for defense. Once approved, an oral defense is scheduled. The candidate then defends the dissertation before the committee. The dissertation defense is open to the public. Invitations are sent to all CEOE faculty and students at least two weeks prior to the defense date. This is done using a college-wide group e-mail. In the defense, the student presents the proposed research and responds to questions from the committee. The defense is 60 to 120 minutes long and is organized and lead by the student's advisor. Immediately following the defense, the dissertation committee meets to decide whether the dissertation is accepted, rejected, or accepted with conditions.

## ***7. Departmental and student obligations for finding committee members***

The student works with his/her advisor to form a committee following guidelines for committee composition (see item #2 above). The committee is approved by the School Director.

## ***8. Departmental and student obligations and procedures for change in committee members***

It is the responsibility of the advisor to replace members who withdraw from the committee during the dissertation process. This is done in agreement with the student.

A student may change his/her advisor in consultation with the assigned advisor and the proposed new advisor. The Graduate Program Director and School Director must approve of the change.

**C. Timetable and definition of satisfactory progress toward degree**

**1. Academic load expectations, normal progress, and evaluation of performance**

Students spend 5 semesters on coursework, 1 semester devoted to a qualifying exam and defense of a dissertation proposal, and 4 semesters writing the dissertation. The degree is completed in 5 years. Students entering with an MS degree and/or credit hours in relevant coursework, may have this time period shorten.

*Normal progress for the PhD program without a master’s degree:*

<p><b><u>Fall – Year 1 (9 credit hours)</u></b>                  ECON 811 Microeconomic Theory I                  ECON 822 Econometric Theory I                  MAST 675 Nat Res Economics</p>	<p><b><u>Fall – Year 2 (9 credit hours)</u></b>                  UAPP 701 Public Policy                  MAST 610 Coupling Natural &amp; Human Systems                  MAST 688 Climate Change Economics</p>
<p><b><u>Spring – Year 1 (9 credit hours)</u></b>                  ECON 813 Microeconomic Theory II                  ECON 823 Econometric Theory II                  MAST 676 Env Economics</p>	<p><b><u>Spring – Year 2 (9 credit hours)</u></b>                  Electives</p>

<p><b><u>Fall – Year 3 (9 credit hours)</u></b>                  Electives</p>	<p><b><u>Fall – Year 4 (0 credit hours)</u></b>                  Candidacy credits</p>
<p><b><u>Spring - Year 3 (0 credit hours)</u></b>                  Pre-Candidacy credits                  Approve advisory committee                  Complete qualifying exams                  Defend dissertation proposal</p>	<p><b><u>Spring – Year 4 (0 credit hours)</u></b>                  Candidacy credits</p>

<p><b><u>Fall – Year 5 (0 credit hours)</u></b>                  Candidacy credits</p>
<p><b><u>Spring – Year 5 (9 credit hours)</u></b>                  MAST 969 Dissertation Research                  Defend Dissertation</p>

*Normal progress for the PhD program with a MS Environmental Economics at UD:*

<p><b><u>Fall – Year 1 (6 credit hours)</u></b>                  ECON 822 Econometric Theory I                  Elective</p>	<p><b><u>Fall – Year 2 (0 credit hours)</u></b>                  Pre-Candidacy credits                  Approve advisory committee                  Complete qualifying exams                  Defend dissertation proposal</p>
<p><b><u>Spring – Year 1 (6 credit hours)</u></b>                  ECON 813 Microeconomic Theory II                  ECON 823 Econometric Theory II</p>	<p><b><u>Spring – Year 2 (0 credit hours)</u></b>                  Candidacy credits</p>

<p><b><u>Fall – Year 3 (9 credit hours)</u></b> Candidacy credits</p>
<p><b><u>Spring 1 – Year 3 (0 credit hours)</u></b> MAST 969 Dissertation Research Defend Dissertation</p>

*Normal progress for the PhD program with a master’s degree other than Environmental Economics at UD:*

<p>Progression is same as above (for admitted with an MS in Env Econ at UD) but includes any coursework not waived by the Graduate Committee, which may extend the schedule beyond 3 years.</p>
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The student completes a progress report at the end of each academic year and submits it to Graduate Committee. The Graduate Committee evaluates the progress of the student and communicates to the student and his/her advisor if the progress is less than satisfactory. The advisor in consultation with Graduate Committee takes necessary action to correct progress or terminate student.

**2. Grade requirements**

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. There are no specific departmental or course grade requirements.

**3. & 4. Thesis/dissertation progress timetable and defense guidelines**

Students entering without a master’s degree: proposal is defended by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> semester and dissertation is defended by the 10<sup>th</sup> semester.

Students entering with an MS Environmental Economics at UD: proposal is defended by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester and dissertation is defended by the 6<sup>th</sup> semester.

Students entering with a master’s degree other than Environmental Economics at UD: proposal is defended the semester after coursework is completed (as laid out in the *Plan of Study*) and dissertation is defended no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> semester.

Section III.B.6 (above) covers the guidelines for the dissertation defense.

**5. Forms required**

See the [Graduate College](#) for the steps a student must follow to complete graduation. Here are the specific forms required by SMSP:

- Annual Progress report submitted to the Graduate Committee ([Link](#))
- Application for Advanced Degree ([Link](#))
- Certification of Doctoral Dissertation Defense to the Graduate College ([Link](#))
- Advisory Committee Formation Sheet ([Link](#))
- Dissertation following Graduate College Guidelines (see steps to graduation) ([Link](#))

#### ***6. Consequence for failure to make satisfactory progress***

A student who is not making satisfactory progress will be issued a written warning after one semester. The warning will identify steps to make satisfactory progress and indicate the consequences of unsatisfactory progress. After a second semester of unsatisfactory progress, the student is issued a second warning. After three semesters of unsatisfactory progress, the student will be recommended for dismissal. All graduate students are subject to the University of Delaware Graduate Probation and Dismissal Policy, as stated in the University Catalog. Protocol for grievance procedure if student has been recommended for termination for failure to make satisfactory progress.

#### ***7. Protocol for grievance procedure***

A student that has been recommended for dismissal for failure to make satisfactory progress may file a grievance based on Graduate College policies.

## **IV. Program Educational Goals**

The objective of the degree is to train research-oriented scholars focused on the intersection of economics, policy, and the environment. This requires:

- A foundation in microeconomic theory and econometrics
- An understanding of public policy, the policy process, and policy analysis
- An understanding of the environment issues in the context of policy analysis
- Identify or define a research question
- Understand and synthesize literature material
- Design and execute a research study or experiment
- Data analysis
- Critically evaluate and interpret the outcome
- Write for peer-reviewed publications
- Present in professional and public forums
- Perform in collaborative workgroups

These learning objectives are manifest in the requirements for the PhD. They are measured directly in the courses through assignments and oral presentations, project reports and final examinations. They are also assessed in the qualifying exam, proposal presentation and dissertation defense using the evaluation tools available to the dissertation committee. In addition to these direct measures of the program, every year graduating students complete an exit survey that asks them to rate their attainment of the desired goals as well as various aspects of the program. The results of this survey, class evaluations, performance in qualifying exams, and committee evaluations of dissertations are used to modify the program.

## **V. Financial Aid**

### *A. Financial Awards*

#### *1. Awards*

Fellowships, research assistantships and teaching assistantships are offered to highly qualified applicants on a competitive basis. Typically, these financial arrangements cover full-time tuition and include a separate stipend. The research assistantships are usually funded through external funding. The intention is to provide full support for as long as the student is in-residence and in good standing, but the support is contingent on available funds. The goal is that PhD students will receive full funding throughout their time at UD.

#### *2. Responsibilities of students on contract*

Students receiving full funding will be expected to work up to 20 hours per week on faculty projects, and students are expected to maintain full-time status.

#### *3. Evaluation of students on contract*

The School Director and faculty member providing funding (typically the student's advisor) will review each student after each semester in terms of progress toward degree and performance on the project. Students will be given feedback if progress and/or performance is not satisfactory. After two semesters of unsatisfactory progress or performance, the contract may be terminated.

## **VI. Departmental Operations**

### *A. General student responsibilities*

It is the student's responsibility to satisfy all University requirements described in the Academic Regulations for Graduate Students section in the Graduate Catalog, as well as any additional

requirements established by the faculty in the academic program in which the student is enrolled. All students enrolled at the University of Delaware are subject to student life policies set by the University and documented in the University publication, [Student Guide to University Policies](#).

***B. Student government and organizations***

Students will have the opportunity to participate in graduate student governments for the School and the University. Students will also be introduced to the [Association of Environmental and Resource Economist Association](#) (AERE), which is the major professional group environmental economists, and the American Economic Association (AEA), which is a central organization for economist job searches.

***C. Travel for professional meetings and presentations***

AERE has reduced fees for students and sponsors several graduate student workshops (North Carolina, Colorado, California, Illinois). These as well as other professional meetings are strongly encouraged. The SMSP often provides travel funds for students.