State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Funded PhD Opportunity at SUNY ESF

Position Description
Dr. Erica Zurawski at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) is seeking to recruit a PhD student to join an existing research project that examines current food and agriculture social movements around health, regenerative agriculture, food is medicine, and the soil to human health nexus.

Key responsibilities as part of this project will include:

- Assistance in conducting mixed methods research (field research, observation, social media analysis, interviews, etc.)
- Organization and analysis of collected data
- Participation in collaborative working group meetings
- Dissemination of findings through academic publications and conference presentations

The student will also receive mentorship and support in advancing their own independent research interests and dissertation project, including applying to additional funding and doctoral fellowships. This position is fully funded for three academic years (renewable each semester based on performance). This covers tuition, fees, and insurance costs, and includes an academic year stipend.

Desired qualifications:

- A master's degree in related field (environmental studies, geography, sociology, etc.)
- Demonstrated interest in critical food studies, cultural studies, food and agriculture social movements, and/or legal geographies
- Demonstrated experience with independently conducting research
- Experience with or willingness to learn social science research methods such as interviews, archival research, policy analysis, etc.
- Desire to work collaboratively with actors and colleagues across disciplines

How to Apply
Please send a brief statement of interest (1 page) and CV to Dr. Erica Zurawski (ezurawsk@esf.edu) by December 1, 2026, for initial consideration. Formal application to the PhD in Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF will follow with an application deadline of January 15, 2026. Interested applicants are welcome to reach out with any questions.

For information about graduate studies at ESF and application procedures, please visit https://www.esf.edu/graduate/programs/