



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Graduate Student Opportunity Graduate Research Assistant

The State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) through its Northern Forest Institute at the Newcomb Campus and the Department of Environmental Studies at the Syracuse Campus is seeking outstanding applicants interested in the intersection of climate science, governance, environmental, climate, and social justice, and educational content development for informal instructional settings for a fully funded masters research project with the Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Institute.

The Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Institute: The Timbuctoo Institute aims to increase understanding of climate science and climate injustice, and reduce underrepresentation in environmental careers, by supporting high school students from historically marginalized communities. This fully funded program immerses students in environmental science, cultural heritage, and social justice while exposing them to leadership, green career pathways and sustainable living practices. The Institute's Adirondack Program runs for six weeks in July and August, with three successive two-week sessions for 16 mid-level high school students from predominantly Title I high schools in the 5 boroughs of New York City. The main goal of which is increasing awareness, access to, and opportunities for students to identify and pursue academic and professional careers that have been previously limited or denied.

Research project: Through the use of mixed methods, for example, a combination of surveys, literature reviews, content/document analysis, and interviews, this project will investigate the long-term institutional and educational effectiveness of the Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Summer Institute program. The project will evaluate the drivers of educational and professional decisions made by the Institute's alumni to assess the impact of the Institute and resulting behavior change among its participants.

Program structure: This program begins in August 2026, with academic coursework. It is expected the successful applicant will live in Syracuse during the academic year and will spend some portion or all of each summer in the Adirondacks, where the Newcomb Campus is located and where the Institute is based. During the summers, the successful applicant may participate in the operations of the Institute.

Funding and duration: This project is fully funded for two academic years (4 semesters) and includes tuition (up to and including Out of State rates), fees, insurance, academic year stipend, and summer salary informed by project design. The successful applicant will also support the work of the Timbuctoo Institute Research Program.

Contact: Dr. Michael Mikulewicz, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF who will act as the successful applicant's Major Professor at mmikulew@esf.edu or Paul B. Hai, Associate Director, SUNY-ESF's Adirondack Ecological Center, Newcomb Campus and Director of the Timbuctoo Institute at pbhai@esf.edu.

Application details: Please email your resume (no page limit) and cover letter (max. 2 pages) explaining how your professional and personal experience make you suitable for this position directly to Dr. Michael Mikulewicz at mmikulew@esf.edu and Paul Hai at pbhai@esf.edu by February 28, 2026.

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