

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Food Systems Modeling Book Project
2020-2021 Academic Year

Position Description

Dr. Christian Peters seeks three research assistants to help with the forthcoming book *Food Systems Modeling: Tools for Assessing the Sustainability of Food and Agriculture*, for which he is the lead editor and a contributing author. Research assistants will play a key role in achieving the book's goal of being accessible to a multidisciplinary audience that is familiar with food systems but not necessarily with modeling. Research assistants would support a series of virtual workshops and monthly calls and would review chapter drafts to give authors feedback on the clarity of the material.

Duties:

- Attend virtual workshops and monthly author calls
- Provide support for virtual workshops, such as by taking notes and reporting back from small group breakout sessions
- Read chapter manuscripts to assess accessibility of material for a graduate-level or higher, multidisciplinary audiences
- Discuss chapter drafts with small groups of students
- Collate feedback from students to send to chapter authors

Required skills, experience, and attributes:

- Demonstrated interest in and familiarity with food systems
- Experience reading primary scientific literature (one year at graduate level or equivalent experience)
- Strong technical writing skills
- Experience taking notes and summarizing group discussion
- Ability to complete work on a deadline

Desired skills, experience, and attributes:

- Coursework in quantitative modeling related to food system
- Experience reviewing and critiquing written work

About the book

Food Systems Modeling: Tools for Assessing the Sustainability of Food and Agriculture will address use of models, both conceptual and computational, to understand the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of food system sustainability. The purpose of the book is to translate what models teach us about food systems. The target audience includes researchers

(who may want to better understand models from other fields), graduate students (who are trying to get oriented to the field), and professionals (who want to better understand what they read). The book will be an edited volume with multiple contributors. Dr. Peters is the lead editor and Dr. Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University, is co-editor.

Purpose of the virtual workshops

To ensure cohesiveness across this multi-author volume and to enhance the accessibility of the material to a multi-disciplinary audience, funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will support a series of virtual workshops for the book's contributors. Early workshops will focus on identifying linkages and building a common vision for the book. Later workshops will focus on the accessibility of the material.

Reviewing chapter drafts

A key part of the assistantship will be the review of chapter drafts. Each RA will be responsible for reading and reviewing 4-5 chapters. In addition, they will serve as an associate editor, collating feedback from at least two other students on each chapter and summarizing student questions, comments, and suggestions for each chapter's authors.

Time commitment

The estimated time commitment for this position is 100-125 hours per semester. Amount of time spent per week will vary according to the needs of the project, but should typically fall within the range of 5-10 hours. To most effectively meet the needs of the project, research assistants should be able to commit to both the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters.

Pay rate

Starts at \$2,500 per semester for qualified applicants.

Start Date

Positions will start during the second or third week of the fall semester and run through March 2021. Work on the project will continue through the intercession between the fall and spring semesters.

How to apply

To apply, please send your resume to Dr. Peters (Christian.Peters@tufts.edu) in an email indicating your interest in the position. Your email can serve as a cover letter. **Applications will be reviewed starting on Tuesday, Sept 15** and will be accepted until the positions are filled.