

Summer 2022 Rio Reimagined IIITSE Application

Overview:

The Earth Systems Science for the Anthropocene ([ESSA](#)) graduate scholars network is excited to announce the first Immersive, Interdisciplinary, and Identity-based Team Science Experience (IIITSE) cohort for summer 2022. A team of five graduate students across multiple disciplines will work together in their cohort to co-design solutions-oriented research focused on the [Rio Reimagined](#) project. We are looking to support graduate students interested in developing a collaborative research and action project that explores several interconnected aspects of community development and ecological restoration on the Rio Salado (Salt River) and Gila River watershed. We are aiming to work at the upstream, middle, and downstream ends of the Rio with Indigenous and urban communities living along the river. Our approach is to co-create collaborative, culturally affirming, and solutions-oriented projects that center diverse knowledge systems to respond to community needs.

Details:

- 10 week commitment during Summer 2022
- Paid stipend for participation
- Students must enroll in 1 credit Session B course (“Preparing for community engagement in the Rio Salado”) in Spring 2022 to prepare for summer work: [BIO 591 Seminar 37766](#)
 - (dates: 03/14 - 04/29)
 - Tuition waiver available
- Open to current graduate students in any discipline.
 - Must plan to be enrolled in Fall 2022
- Application due March 4, 2022
 - Students notified of selection by March 9, 2022

Application:

- Please go to the [Google form](#) to complete your application
- Within the form, please submit a 1-2 page statement answering the following questions:
 - Why would you like to participate in this IIITSE?
 - How might your experience and skills fit into this interdisciplinary project?
 - How would participating in the project advance your personal and/or academic interests and goals?

Background:

The Phoenix metropolitan area is one of the largest and fastest growing regions in the country. Due to rapid development and climate change impacts, the ecological environment and natural resources have been negatively impacted. In particular, it is estimated that less than 10% of Arizona’s original riparian areas remain and the rest are threatened; signaling a loss of ecological and cultural assets (Zaines 2007). However, the Onk Akimel (Salt - Gila River) watershed has the potential to provide a riparian greenway of approximately 350 square miles within our urban corridor, including several cities and reservations. The Rio Reimagined project

is working with a wide range of partners including community organizations, private industry, universities, and tribes to conserve and restore this vital resource to support social and ecological health and wellbeing (Horvath et al. 2019).

As part of the Rio Reimagined IIITSE, students and faculty members from ASU will work together with local tribes, Indigenous community members, and urban communities to understand the cultural-ecological history of the river and develop visions for its future. The team of students will co-create pilot projects to implement on the river in collaboration with the community. The projects will bring community visions to life and offer opportunities to study the social and ecological impacts of the interventions on the riverine environment.

The scholars involved in the Summer 2022 Rio Reimagined IIITSE will utilize best practices for team science and connect their STEM competencies to real-world problems faced by the river and the surrounding communities. IIITSE scholars will work together to develop solutions related to their personal identities and values. Mentors from ESSA will work with the IIITSE scholars to establish common goals, facilitate, and reflexively adapt and tailor the process to the cohort.