Compensation: Level 3 Graduate Research Assistantship, exact pay based on experience- approximately $11,745 stipend over 9 months ($1,305 monthly) + tuition remission, summer term work is to be paid hourly based on experience

Hourly Commitment: 18 hours/week (.45 FTE), summer term hours will increase to approximately 30 hours weekly

Appointment Term: February 2017- August 2018

Seeking: Graduate students (Master’s or PhD) currently enrolled at PSU

The Food Waste Reduction Study* is a collaborative effort of PSU’s Community Environmental Services (CES) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The GRA, under supervision of the PI, will coordinate, manage, and complete daily activities that support and promote a research study on a food wasting behaviors, interventions, and best practices for reducing food waste. The GRA will report directly to the Director of CES, represent CES in meetings with our partners at DEQ, and collaborate with another GRA. The ideal candidate has experience in project/study management, research design, and an interest in food systems or waste reduction research.

Applicants must currently be enrolled at PSU, at least three-quarter-time. (9 graduate credits) and plan to be enrolled for the duration of the study (19 months). Ph.D. students preferred but exceptional Master’s students considered. This project offers the opportunity for publication, GRA tuition and stipend for 5 terms, and hourly compensation over the summer.

Responsibilities:

● Recruit participants for qualitative interviews on food waste
● Recruit participants for a diary study where participants track their wasted food
● Coordinate logistics for waste sorts for diary study. (CES has over 25 years of experience in conducting waste sorts and has a solid infrastructure to aid the GRA in logistics)
● Coordinate logistics for commercial, food service generator waste sorts
● With PI, conduct analysis of waste prevention interventions in residential and food service environments
● Coordinate and facilitate meetings with various project partners and staff
● Maintain timeline and task list through the project, providing quarterly updates to DEQ

Desired Skills:

● Ability to conduct rigorous and accurate fieldwork
● Attention to detail, checking work for accuracy
● Technical report writing
● Think creatively to solve problems as they arise, to develop recruitment strategies
● Work closely with others as part of a team
● Work independently, with minimal supervision
● Previous research experience - study design, running a study, analyzing results. Diary study experience is especially valuable.
● Academic background or interest in models of behavioral and institutional change

To Apply:
Send resume and short letter detailing your interest and qualifications to Emily Murkland- emcary@pdx.edu Include “DEQ Wasted Food Study” in the subject line of the email submission.

*DEQ Wasted Food Research Study
This research project is a study of food waste generation and loss reasons from residential and a subset of industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sectors in Oregon. Goals include: 1) provide an understanding of the drivers (informational, psychological, social, economic, structural) leading to preventable wasted food; 2) allow state and local governments in Oregon to develop baseline data, including reliable data on wasted edible food, quantities and reporting biases; and 3) provide state and local governments with protocols to assess progress in waste prevention and interventions.