

Ph.D. Research Assistantship in Integrated Coastal Sciences

[The Wade Research Group](#) at East Carolina University and the [Coastal Studies Institute](#) is seeking to recruit **1 Ph.D. student** in [Integrated Coastal Sciences](#) to start in Fall 2025. The group applies theories from behavioral economics, sociology, anthropology, and social psychology to study human-ocean relationships. The lab has ongoing studies in the Wider-Caribbean and North Carolina, exploring food security, renewable ocean energy, social networks, decision-making under socio-ecological change, fisheries policy reform, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

The selected student will join the social science team as part of a larger interdisciplinary team of researchers on a [National Science Foundation project](#) to work with remote island communities in North Carolina and Michigan. This project will drive the convergence of ocean wave energy research through community-engaged decision-making, 3D techno-economic socio-environmental assessment, and transdisciplinary co-design methodology. The student will, in part: (1) assist with leading focus groups and semi-structured interviews, (2) coordinate quarterly meetings of the community advisory council, (3) maintain relationships with community partners, (3) contribute to the development of a socio-environmental metrics to guide marine energy development.

Students interested in energy justice, energy inequality, or just transitions are especially encouraged to apply.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Master's degree in anthropology, geography, natural resources management, or related fields.
- Excellent organization, writing, and communication skills.
- Methodological and analytical training in qualitative or quantitative approaches.
- Experience working with communities.

Funding: This assistantship covers a tuition waiver, a 12-month stipend (\$30,000), and health insurance. Funding is guaranteed for the first two years; subsequent years are subject to satisfactory progress.

Interested students are invited to send a letter outlining previous research or professional experiences, motivation for pursuing a PhD and research interests, a CV, and names of 2-3 references to Dr. Eric Wade (wadee21@ecu.edu). Submit materials by November 15th, 2024, for full consideration. The deadline to apply to East Carolina University is January 15th, 2025.

Please email Dr. Wade (wadee21@ecu.edu) with questions about the position, department, or university.