

# Apply to become an SLA GC-URSP Project Consultant!

The application for Project Consultants for the Sustainable LA Grand Challenge Undergraduate Research Scholars Program for the 2017-18 academic year can be accessed [online](#). Students from ALL majors are encouraged to apply! See eligibility guidelines below. Applications are DUE by May 15, 2017 at 11:55pm.

By submitting this application, you are applying to commit to a leadership role in a year-long course.

**More about the SLA GC-URSP:** The Undergraduate Research Scholars Program was first offered by UCLA Grand Challenges in 2014-15. The course is open to students who will be in their 2nd and 3rd years during the year in which the course is offered. If you want to apply as a student (rather than a project consultant) to this course, please use a [separate application](#).

The program has three components:

1. Placement in a Sustainable LA Grand Challenge faculty member research setting where students will conduct research under the mentorship of the faculty and senior researchers.
2. A concurrent course that meets once per week that provides students with a background in urban sustainability, research and communication skills, and professional development.
3. An interdisciplinary research experience among peers aimed at addressing real urban sustainability challenges in the Los Angeles region. This experience will take place under the guidance of the course instructor, and will be separate from the faculty-mentored research experience.

**SLA GC-URSP Project Consultants:** Students in their 4th year or later may apply to be Project Consultants for the course. Project Consultants play a leadership role and do not participate in the faculty-mentored research experience. This is a year-long commitment and course credit will be given. Project Consultants are expected to attend the course and lead one of the SLA GC-URSP interdisciplinary research student groups. Project Consultants will meet with the course instructor for one hour per week outside of instruction time. Former URSP students are highly encouraged to apply to be Project Consultants. The course is offered to Project Consultants for two units each quarter, with P/NP in the Fall and letter grades in the Winter and Spring quarters.

## Eligibility:

To enroll in the SLA GC-URSP as a student, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be able to commit to a year-long class and research experience
- Be a UCLA undergraduate (all majors are welcome!)
- Be a 2nd or 3rd year student in Fall of the year in which the course takes place
- Have a minimum 2.7 GPA

To enroll in the SLA GC-URSP as a Project Consultant, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be able to commit to a year-long class and leadership experience
- Be a UCLA undergraduate (all majors are welcome!)
- Be a 4th year or above student in Fall of the year in which the course takes place
- Have a minimum 2.7 GPA

## Course Topics (sample):

Each quarter of the SLA GC-URSP course will cultivate a different set of skills, always under the umbrella of the UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge project. Sample topics are outlined below:

- Lab etiquette and professional communication
- Writing a literature review and research proposal
- Different types of data management and research
- Collaborative research projects and group dynamics
- Career exploration and opportunities in sustainability
- Writing an abstract
- Career and resume workshop
- Individual research presentations
- Research ethics

### **Research Topics:**

Based on your application, you will be matched with a Sustainable LA faculty member that best fits your research interests. The interdisciplinary nature of UCLA Grand Challenges allows for a broad range of topics with which you may work. Examples of previous SLA GC-URSP research projects are listed below.

Individual research projects (faculty-mentored): Sediment analysis to predict sea level change; Policies and procedures related to residential solar power usage; The relationship between air quality and neighborhood income levels; Troubleshooting and designing effective desalination technology; and Efficient energy storage technology.

Group research projects: Evaluation of natural classroom lighting; Analysis of ocean wave energy converters; Economic benefits of solar streetlamps; and GIS analysis of LA River greenspaces.

### **About the Sustainable LA Grand Challenge:**

In 2013, Chancellor Gene Block announced UCLA's premier Grand Challenge – the Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, *Thriving in a hotter Los Angeles* – to address the societal problem of urban sustainability in the 21st century. UCLA Grand Challenges are novel approaches to university research in that the research is organized around addressing a single ambitious goal. Sustainable LA aims to transform Los Angeles County to the first sustainable megacity through multidisciplinary team building, facilitating collaborations, producing game-changing work, and creating and fostering partnerships across sectors and in the community.

The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge was developed in response to the challenges posed by the regional-specific effects of climate change, combined with an increasing urban population in Los Angeles County. UCLA research predicts a hotter Los Angeles with more frequent and dangerous heat waves, increased wildfire risk, and less snowpack to feed the region's local water supplies. At the same time, the County will absorb an estimated 1.5 million more residents by 2050 and must determine a pathway to provide this growing population with reliable energy and water, and an environment that will enhance their health and well-being. Sustainable LA aims to address these challenges by capitalizing on UCLA's research strengths to develop a blueprint for transitioning Los Angeles County to **100% renewable energy, 100% local water, and enhanced ecosystem and human health by 2050** in a way that will secure the County's long-term welfare and economic prosperity while preserving its cultural identity.

UCLA has more than 180 faculty and researchers from across disciplines who have expressed interest and are involved in the research necessary to inform a sustainability implementation plan for Los Angeles County by 2020 that will be developed together with local and state government, businesses, community groups, non-government agencies, and other stakeholders. The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge will strengthen partnerships with stakeholders and galvanize the next generation of sustainability leaders

committed to improving the region's environment, economy and social equity – serving as a model for other universities and urban areas around the globe.

### **Questions?**

*For further questions, email [SLAURSP@ucla.edu](mailto:SLAURSP@ucla.edu).*