



**Park, Recreation and Tourism Studies
National Capital Area Graduate Assistant**

Description

The Park, Recreation and Tourism Studies Program at Old Dominion University (ODU) is seeking one Master's of Science graduate research assistant (GRA) with interests in pursuing coursework and research focused at the intersection of rock climbing and visitor use management. The successful applicant will assist Dr. Chris Zajchowski and current ODU graduate research assistant peers with a multi-year visitor use survey effort at National Park Service (NPS) units in the National Capital Area, Region 1. This fully-funded graduate assistantship will allow the student to participate in research design, data collection and analysis, reporting and dissemination for climbing planning and management focused at [Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park](#) and [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#). The position also will include additional effort related to one or more of the following NPS units: [Harpers Ferry National Historic Park](#), [Rock Creek Park](#), [Monocacy National Battlefield](#), [Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail](#) and [Prince William Forest Park](#).

Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a) ... assisting with the development of qualitative and quantitative survey protocols and plans through cooperative partnerships and third-party review
- b) ... collecting, organizing and maintaining necessary and data at each individual park
- c) ... analyzing, summarizing and reporting all data, focusing on visitor experiences and park amenities
- d) ... presenting findings to NPS partners and at national and international conferences
- e) ... assisting PRTS Program with projects and other duties as assigned

Qualifications

- An earned Bachelor's degree prior to the start of course work
- Acceptance to ODU's PRTS Graduate Program or a submitted application in process at the time of application for this position
- Strong leadership, organizational skills, and work ethic
- Ability to work collegially with others in a variety of formal and informal settings
- Ability to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions (i.e., rain, heat, cold, wind)
- Excellent written and verbal skills
- Proficient with software packages, such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, and Outlook
- Valid Driver's License and ability to meet University's vehicle policies and procedures
- Prior rock climbing experience is preferred, but not required

Remuneration and Hours

Each GA position requires 20 hours per week on an established schedule that fits with the student's course demands, which will include potential work on weekdays and some weekends. A stipend of



\$20,000.00 will be paid over three academic semesters and one summer session. A full, in-state tuition waiver (30 credit hours) will be provided for all required coursework. Pending regional and national pandemic restrictions, on-site research efforts will occur in National Capital Area units, and housing, transportation and a meal stipend will be provided.

Period of Effort

January 10, 2022 – May 5, 2023

*GRAs receive all University holidays

Application Process

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however, preference will be given to M.S. in PRTS admissions applications received by **Monday, August 16th**. Please electronically submit an application essay, resume, three letters of recommendation, and all [required applicant materials listed for admission to the M.S. in PRTS](#).

For questions related to this position and more information please contact:

Chris Zajchowski, Ph.D.

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