Much of the world’s population depends on large freshwater ecosystems to provide goods and services that support economies and livelihoods. Despite the important societal and economic benefits of these freshwater systems, the ability to understand the potential impacts of changes to these ecosystems on communities is limited. A better understanding of the physical, biological, and social dynamics that sustain freshwater ecosystem services will allow for better management of these critical resources.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Future Rivers is a National Science Foundation Research Traineeship graduate program that prepares students to be fluent in 21st century data science approaches and to understand interactions among and within food, water, and energy sectors in order to advance environmental sustainability.

**PROGRAM GOALS**

- Develop new technical and data science skills
- Foster innovative interdisciplinary and international science integration
- Improve trainee communication skills
- Increase cultural awareness and inclusivity among faculty, trainees, and participants
- Create networks and opportunities for student career development

**FUTURE RIVERS**

Training the next generation of culturally-aware freshwater sustainability scientists for a globally competitive workforce.

**PROGRAM PARTNERS**

College of Engineering  
College of the Environment  
EarthLab  
eScience Institute  
Freshwater Initiative  
Microsoft Global Water Program  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)  
The Nature Conservancy  
United States Geological Survey (USGS)
FUNDING
• Potential for up to 18 months of stipend during participation in the core program – awarded competitively, based on availability.
• Potential for other funding opportunities – 1-year travel stipend or research/travel funds – after completing the core program; open to all trainees.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
• Three selected data science courses relevant to your degree program
• A graduate seminar in Applying a Food-Energy-Water Nexus Perspective to Freshwater
• Two quarters of a 1-hour eScience community seminar (if pursuing a Certificate in Data Science)
• A Spring speaker series
• A week-long Summer Institute (U.S. or International)
• A science communication workshop
• Quarterly STEM inclusivity trainings

JOIN US!
APPLY IN LATE FALL
• The application period opens late fall of each year (Oct/Nov) to join for the program starting the following fall
• Applications are accepted on a rolling-basis, however funding decisions will be made by February of each year
• Program funding is limited and awarded on a competitive basis
• Applications consist of a Letter of Interest and Faculty Advisor Letter of Recommendation

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS
Professional Networking
• Social and educational activities (speaker series, book talk, etc.)
• Community engagement via Summer Institutes, research, and volunteer opportunities
• Interaction with external partners from multiple sectors including non-profit, business, government, and multi-lateral

New STEM Career Skills
• Access to Data Science Summit, career fairs, and hack weeks
• Optional science communications trainings, including science through filmmaking
• Opportunity for innovative interdisciplinary integration
• Increased cultural awareness and inclusivity

Community Building
• Develop a community of colleagues and friends through quarterly social meetups, seminars and coursework, and intensive interdisciplinary research