

NATIONAL SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL SYNTHESIS CENTER

# SESYNC-LTER POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2017

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) in collaboration with the [Long-Term Ecological Research \(LTER\) network](#), invites applications from early career scholars ( $\leq 4$  years post PhD) for two-year postdoctoral fellowships that begin August 2017. Each fellow works with a Collaborating Mentor (scholar) of their choosing to co-develop a synthesis research project. The current LTER sites collect long-term data in [five core areas](#), and these data are ripe for data discovery, analysis, visualization, and synthesis. Applicants may wish to combine LTER data with other forms of data from outside the LTER network. Successful candidates will take advantage of long term data sets, ongoing experiments, or modeling results from LTER sites using synthesis methods to address a problem arising from, or associated with, the relationship between humans and the environment. Synthesis is a research approach that accelerates knowledge production by distilling or integrating existing data, ideas, theories, and/or methods to draw more reliable or generalizable conclusions and to reveal novel areas of study. Regardless of approach, fellows' projects take advantage of existing data/information; **SESYNC does not fund fellows to collect new field or survey data**. Priority will be given to projects that have the potential to advance understanding of socio-environmental systems, but the synthesis may be primarily social or environmental in nature, or some mix.

In addition to undertaking a synthesis research project, Postdoctoral Fellows participate in the SESYNC [Socio-Environmental Immersion Program](#). Unique among postdoctoral programs, a learning component of this program will steep Fellows in theory foundational to understanding socio-environmental systems. Regardless of disciplinary background, the SESYNC Postdoctoral Socio-Environmental Immersion Fellowship Program provides the freedom and support to do cutting-edge synthesis research while increasing capacity to collaborate across disciplinary divides.

**Project Co-Development** - Fellowship applicants should work with a Collaborating Mentor to co-develop a synthesis research proposal. Suggestions for potential Collaborating Mentors may be found in the Mentor Registry provided by SESYNC to successfully pre-screened prospective Fellows. You may also recruit your own Collaborating Mentor. SESYNC must approve all potential Collaborating Mentors to ensure they understand the commitment they are making to your progress and success. Applications for Collaborating Mentors are due by October 24, 2016, 5 p.m. EST. Visit <http://sesync.us/mentors> for additional information on Collaborating Mentors.

**Support** - Appointments will be through the University of Maryland, and **fellowship awardees must be based at SESYNC's facilities in Annapolis, Maryland**. Depending on their research interests, Fellows may choose to spend part of their time at the offices of our partner organization, Resources for the Future, located in Washington, D.C. The SESYNC postdoctoral fellowship provides an annual stipend, full University of Maryland employee benefits, and a small annual travel allowance to attend meetings or to meet with collaborators. Postdoctoral fellowships are awarded for a maximum of two years and include structured mentoring programs and opportunities to participate in ongoing Center activities.

## Deadlines

**Pre-screening application deadline:** October 24, 2016, 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

**Collaborating Mentor selection and commitment deadline:** November 14, 2016, 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

**Fellowship application deadline:** December 5, 2016, 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

## Complete Program Details

Visit <http://sesync.us/postdoctler> for additional information on the postdoctoral program.

