

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has been awarded a \$20 million [National Science Foundation EPSCoR grant](#) to advance research in climate science, geohazards engineering, and disaster management. This initiative, named Climate Resilience through Multidisciplinary Big Data Learning, Prediction & Building Response Systems, involves eight universities in Kentucky and over 50 faculty and staff members. This program will support seven research projects over the next five years.

Official press releases

- National Science Foundation: [NSF Press Release](#)
- University of Kentucky: [UKY Press Release](#)

Under the supervision and mentorship of [Dr. Crystal Felima](#), a PhD student in Anthropology will support Project 6: An Approach to Map Interdependencies and Quantify Community Resilience to Climate-Driven Disasters in Appalachia. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to community resilience and interdisciplinary climate knowledge in Kentucky.

Research Tasks

- Conduct literature reviews, collect ethnographic data through participant observation and interviews, and assist in data analysis using qualitative methods
- Contribute to writing reports and research papers
- Provide logistical support and project management for the research study
- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork, interviews, and data analysis. This includes learning and utilizing applicable research methodology for participant observation, geospatial mapping, and community engagement (e.g., photovoice, surveys, and focus groups)

Benefits

- Obtain a fully funded Ph.D. degree in Anthropology at the University of Kentucky
- 12-month stipend with health insurance and full tuition for five years (FY 2024-2029)
- Access to necessary research equipment and software
- Participation in collaborative research projects
- Targeted graduate mentoring and support

Prospective Candidates

- Interested in anthropology, disaster studies, and climate change
- Willingness and ability to conduct fieldwork in rural environments, particularly in Appalachia
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Highly motivated with a commitment to professional development and continuous learning in disaster anthropology and climate ethnography
- Critical thinker with a proactive approach to anthropological research
- Strong understanding of ethical considerations in disaster and climate research
- Experience in collaborating with others, community outreach, or engagement with stakeholders

Application requirements: CV, Statement of Purpose (max. two pages single-space), Writing Sample, and Three Letters of Recommendation. More information about the required application materials can be found on the UKY Anthropology Department [Website](#). Please send completed applications to the [UKY Graduate School](#) by **Tuesday, July 9, 2024**. Due to this deadline, only domestic applications are accepted. **The graduate assistant position starts Fall 2024.**

**Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to contact
Dr. Crystal Felima at crystal.felima@uky.edu to discuss their interest in this opportunity.**