

# Risks, Impacts & Strategies for Coastal Communities (RISCC)

## Summer Undergraduate Internships 2026

**Project Title:** Developing an Educational Economic Game about Adaptation to Flooding and Saltwater Intrusion in Coastal Communities

**Dates of Internship:** June, 1 – August, 14 (A vacation week is negotiable with faculty member, Approximately 10 weeks total)

**Estimated Stipend:** \$6,000

**Number of Positions Available:** 1

**Schedule:** Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. Exact hours may vary. Schedules can be negotiated with the faculty mentor. Approximately 35 hours a week.

**Location:** 025 Townsend Hall, Newark, DE

**Faculty Mentor:** Leah Palm-Forster ([leahhp@udel.edu](mailto:leahhp@udel.edu)) and [Christina McGranaghan](mailto:cmcgran@udel.edu) ([cmcgran@udel.edu](mailto:cmcgran@udel.edu))

**Graduate Student Mentor (if applicable):** N/A

**Staff/Lab Technician Mentor (if applicable):** Chila Inocencio ([ainocen@udel.edu](mailto:ainocen@udel.edu))

**Apply Here:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfebPCxuUc-qpf1qTCU8xTWxiwdDKzonoUHwRasyQSiRYtTMw/viewform?usp=header>

**About the RISCC Project:** Coastal communities face growing and compounding risks from multiple hazards, exacerbated by the effects of climate change and sea-level rise (SLR). With nearly twice the global rates of SLR, the US Atlantic seaboard is particularly vulnerable, and hazards are experienced disproportionately. Neglecting equity issues in climate change adaptation efforts can worsen inequalities and bring further harm to already vulnerable communities. The Risks, Impacts, & Strategies for Coastal Communities (RISCC) project brings together researchers and community stakeholders from three EPSCoR jurisdictions representing the lowest-lying states in the country—Delaware (DE), Rhode Island (RI), & South Carolina (SC). The overarching goal of our project is to advance convergent science to empower communities that are disproportionately affected by dual, interacting climate hazards—flooding and salinization—to make effective and inclusive adaptation decisions that support long-term climate resilience.

**Role Description:** RISCC is seeking a motivated undergraduate student to support the development of an educational economics game designed to introduce high school seniors and undergraduate students to adaptation strategies that coastal communities can use to be more resilient to flooding and saltwater intrusion hazards. The game will focus on voluntary home buyouts and behavioral responses to climate-induced risks. This work directly contributes to Objectives 4 and 7 of the RISCC project. The goal of this project is to build a classroom-ready tool that helps learners understand why households accept or reject voluntary buyouts, how incentives affect collective outcomes, and how climate risk translates into economic decision-making.

**Main RISCC Objective:**

Objective 4: Economic impacts and behavior

Objective 7: Education and outreach

Task 7.4.C: To develop an economics game as an education and outreach tool to discuss behavioral response to climate-induced risks and how incentives and policy innovations can lead to greater societal wellbeing

**Position 1: Game Development & Interactive Design Intern**

**Primary Responsibilities:**

- Assist in designing an interactive economics game (in-person or digital) to simulate household buyout decisions.
- Create engaging presentation materials for classroom delivery (Google Slides, animations, simple graphics).
- Participate in professional development opportunities, including presenting at an end-of-summer virtual research symposium and attending approximately 4 online professional development sessions.

**Skills and Qualifications:**

- Interest in game design, interactive media, UX, or educational tools.
- Experience with presentation tools (Google Slides, PowerPoint, Canva) or basic design software.

**How to Apply:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfebPCxuUc-qpf1qTCU8xTWxiwdDKzonoUHwRasyQSiRYtTMw/viewform?usp=header>