

**MS Graduate Research Assistant- Coastal Waterbird Socio-Ecological Systems
Harte Research Institute
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi**

The Community Resilience Group at the Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi is actively recruiting 1 MS student for Fall 2025. This position includes stipend, full tuition support, and benefits.

The [Community Resilience Group](#) applies the Socio-Ecological Systems framework to address issues at the intersection of humans and the environment. The group is primarily focused on informing on-the-ground conservation, restoration, and planning efforts, as well as policy interventions that can benefit both people and nature. They are solution-oriented, utilizing co-production techniques to design, implement, and achieve shared goals with local, state, regional, national, and international partners. Their work often involves distilling human perceptions and values related to nature and natural resources, to identify the diverse social, cultural, and behavioral linkages to changing ecosystems for improved problem-solving. Research approaches include mixed methods, logic and concept modeling, data visualization, ecosystem service assessments (monetary and non-monetary valuation), vulnerability and risk assessments, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and workshops, as well as project and program evaluation. They also continually utilize their science communication skills to engage their vast network of communities, such as language translation, social media messaging, newsletter development and distribution, and presentations to diverse audiences.

The student will primarily work with the [Colony Island Network Design and Implementation \(CINDI\)](#) project team and will be advised by [Dr. Diana Del Angel](#) and [Dr. Dale Gawlik](#). The project offers an opportunity to make a significant contribution to large scale restoration science by studying public perceptions and values related to colonial waterbird conservation. The student will gain knowledge in ecosystem service valuation approaches, ecological restoration techniques, planning, decision-making, and policy. The student will work as part of an interdisciplinary team to design and conduct ethical human research, co-produce knowledge, and apply knowledge to ecosystem restoration projects.

Graduate Assistantship Details:

We are prioritizing students whose research interests fit closely with the Community Resilience Group and the CINDI project. We are seeking an individual with the ability to work on an interdisciplinary research team, with excellent organizational, written, and verbal communication skills. As part of this project, the student will co-design and implement a survey to assess the value of colonial waterbirds to the Texas coastal community. Activities include:

- Literature review
- Active participation in stakeholder engagement
- Complete Research, Ethics, Compliance, and Safety Training - CITI Program
- Learn to prepare and submit Institutional Review Board application for research projects
- Designing of a survey instrument
- Travel and survey dissemination

- Data analysis and reporting
- Presenting at local events and national conferences

The student will be supported primarily with an externally-funded Research Assistantship of \$19,200/year with tuition waiver and health benefits. **The student will start in fall 2025 contingent on acceptance into either the [Coastal and Marine System Science, Environmental Science, Marine Biology or Biology MS degree programs](#).** The position is based in Corpus Christi, Texas. Applications are due May 31, 2025. Applicants should send as a single pdf, a letter of interest, CV, copy of transcripts and GRE scores (unofficial will suffice), and the names and contact information for 3 references to Dr. Diana Del Angel (Diana.delangel@tamucc.edu)

The Harte Research Institute is an interdisciplinary institute located at the Texas A&M University Corpus Christi campus that is dedicated to advancing the long-term sustainable use and conservation of the Gulf. Texas A&M University Corpus Christi is an R2 university that benefits from its inclusion as a branch of the Texas A&M University system while maintaining a relatively small student body (~11,000 students). The “Island University” sits on Ward Island east of Corpus Christi, boasting views of Corpus Christi Bay and Oso Bay, an extensive hike and bike trail, mild winters, and some of the best birding and wildlife-viewing of any college campus.