The Duke Environmental Economics Doctoral Scholars (DEEDS) Program

The Duke Environmental Economics Doctoral Scholars (DEEDS) program aims to foster dynamic intellectual exchange between Duke doctoral students in environmental economics, Duke University faculty, and the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions.

The DEEDS program offers support to doctoral students working with, and being mentored by a Duke faculty member in collaboration with the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and the University Program in Environmental Policy (UPEP). The program encourages doctoral students to work with a faculty mentor and a senior program director at the Nicholas Institute on a research project operating at the nexus of economics and the environment, natural resources, or energy. A further objective of the program is for the student to become actively involved in the environmental economics community within and outside Duke. The program will be pilot-tested for the 2013-14 academic year. The deadline for application submission is March 15, 2013.

A DEEDS Scholar is a doctoral candidate at Duke with a disciplinary foundation in economics who seeks to apply disciplinary principles and methods to environmental policy issues. An environmental economics perspective explicitly incorporates the fact that environmental problems have distinctly economic causes and solutions, viewed within the appropriate social and institutional context. An ideal DEEDS Scholar uses this foundation to conduct high-quality, innovative dissertation research on an environmental policy problem, but pre-dissertation research projects will be considered as well. An emphasis will be placed on problems aimed at the core environmental domain areas of the Nicholas Institute: climate and energy, freshwater systems, oceans, coastal, marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The Nicholas Institute contributes 50% of the student's 9-month expenses for fees and stipend; the remainder will come from the student's home department. The program does not cover costs of field work or other travel-related expenses. Initial funding lasts one year and can be renewed for up to three years upon student's successful application for continuation. Doctoral scholars are provided space in the Nicholas Institute offices on Campus Drive and are encouraged to spend time each week in the Nicholas Institute’s offices to participate in research activities and facilitate participation in the Duke environmental policy community.

DEEDS Program Components

In an effort to achieve the goals of the program, we aim for scholars to engage in the following activities during their tenure:

- Significantly contribute to an environmental economics project as a graduate assistant with a Duke faculty member and Nicholas Institute researcher.
• Conduct economics research on an environmental policy topic at the dissertation or pre-dissertation stage.
• Actively participate in UPEP student/faculty environmental and resource economics (ERE) colloquia and present ongoing research at least once a year at a colloquium seminar, including a presentation of dissertation research.
• Contribute to university programs through activities such as leading a lecture in a course focused on environmental, resource or energy economics, mentoring undergraduate students, leading a professional development workshop, or participating in a panel discussion.

Expectations of the Duke Faculty Member and Nicholas Institute Program Lead

The success of the DEEDS Program rests largely on the mentoring relationship between the doctoral scholar, the Duke faculty mentor, and program area leaders at the Nicholas Institute. As such, it is expected that the faculty will provide career development mentoring and opportunities which will increase the likelihood of a successful launching of a scholar's career in environmental economics. Nicholas Institute program leads are expected to couple research mentoring with real application to the solution of critical environmental problems in climate, energy, freshwater, oceans, coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems.

PROGRAM DETAILS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Student Eligibility
   a. Any Duke doctoral student currently enrolled full time in the UPEP economics track, the Economics Department PhD program, or the Sanford School Public Policy PhD program economics concentration. The student must be working with (or proposing to work with) a UPEP faculty member. A UPEP faculty is a faculty member affiliated with the Duke University PhD Program in Environmental Policy (http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/programs/doctoral/upep/faculty). The program will also consider mentorship by other Duke faculty members whose primary discipline is economics and who have a demonstrated track record on environmental policy research.
   b. Doctoral student must show evidence of significant interest in research on important environmental policy topics in one of the main Nicholas Institute environmental topic areas: climate, energy, freshwater, oceans, coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems.
   c. DEEDS Scholars must be making successful academic progress in their home department.

2. Program Duration

The scholar appointment is for a minimum period of 9 months (September to May). The initial intent is that scholars will be able to apply for continuation each year for a potential total support
period of up to three years. Please note: The program is being pilot-tested for the 2013-14 academic year and could be modified based on this initial experience.

3. Deadline

The deadline for application submission is March 15, 2013.

4. Application

Doctoral students can apply to become a DEEDS Scholar as early as their first year at Duke for the start of the next academic year. Successful application to the program depends on the match between student interest, that of the proposed faculty member, and Nicholas Institute program directors; the proposed research topic; and the number of current Scholars from the same department.

Please submit the following items by email to deeds@duke.edu by March 15, 2013, with "Duke Environmental Economics Doctoral Scholars Application" in the subject line of your message.

Brief application. Use the attachment.

A 3-5 page statement describing your background, environmental interest, planned dissertation focus, and proposed research collaboration with Duke faculty and Nicholas Institute program area. (submitted directly by applicant)

Current curriculum vitae (submitted directly by applicant)

Nomination letter from Duke faculty mentor verifying faculty's interest in working with you. (submitted directly by faculty member)

Statement of support from home department advisor, if not same person as the faculty member above. (submitted directly by advisor)

Letter of recommendation from the Director of Graduate Studies of your home department. (submitted directly by DGS)

Transcript of graduate-level coursework from Duke.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Brian Murray, Director for Economic Analysis at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Brian.Murray@duke.edu.
DEEDS Program Application Attachment

1. Contact Information:
   a. First Name:
   b. Last Name:
   c. Home Phone:
   d. Email Address:
   e. Mailing Address:

2. Duke doctoral program in which you are currently enrolled:

3. Current year in doctoral program:

4. Which of the following applies to you?
   a. Currently enrolled in full-time coursework
   b. Passed qualifying exam
   c. Preparing dissertation proposal
   d. Conducting dissertation proposal

5. Please provide the name of your faculty mentor:

6. Provide a brief description of your research topic and/or interests: