



Environmental & Energy Economics

Undergraduate Research Training Program



OVERVIEW

The Environmental Inequality Lab at the University of Virginia (UVA) seeks highly motivated undergraduates for a selective, full-time summer research training program in environmental and energy economics.

The program is designed for students seeking hands-on research experience and a strong foundation for pre-doctoral positions or graduate study in economics and related policy fields. Trainees work closely with faculty and a dedicated graduate student manager, and receive near-peer mentoring from the Environmental Inequality Lab's team of pre-doctoral research associates. The program emphasizes high standards, high support, and shared responsibility for research quality.

The program is hosted in person at UVA's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, with support from the University of Virginia Department of Economics.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Dates	May 26–July 31, 2026 (10 weeks)
Stipend	\$6,000
Location	Charlottesville, Virginia— University of Virginia (Batten School)
Time	Full-time (in-person)
Eligibility	Rising juniors & seniors; current U.S. work authorization required
Open To	Applicants nationwide
Deadline	Applications reviewed on a rolling basis (<i>apply before April 15, 2026</i>)

FACULTY MENTORS

- Jonathan Colmer — Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy
- Jay Shimshack — Professor of Public Policy and Economics
- Jenna Anders — Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics
- Andrew Wilson — Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics

TRAINING & MENTORSHIP

The program begins with an intensive research assistant bootcamp covering:

- Fundamentals of environmental and energy economics
- Using data to inform policy
- Ethical and effective AI use in research
- Clean and reproducible coding practices
- Data stewardship and management
- Geospatial and remote-sensing methods
- Causal inference
- Science communication and data visualization

Following the bootcamp, trainees join faculty-led project teams and participate in weekly milestones, one-on-one mentoring meetings, and structured feedback sessions designed to develop analytical, communication, and project execution skills for high-quality policy and research work.

RESEARCH & POLICY FOCUS AREAS

Trainees contribute to active research projects spanning:

- Environmental markets and regulation
- Clean energy and industrial decarbonization
- Environmental and energy policy impacts
- The distributional incidence of environmental risk
- Measurement and new data tools for environmental and energy economics

TRAINEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collect data from websites, reports, APIs, and raw sources
- Clean, merge, and manage large datasets
- Write, document, and run replication code
- Create figures, tables, and maps
- Conduct literature reviews and summarize research findings
- Conduct preliminary empirical analyses
- Draft policy briefs, technical notes, and other research outputs
- Participate in weekly milestones, check-ins, and seminars

QUALIFICATIONS

- Rising junior or senior (3rd or 4th year undergraduate) at a U.S. college or university, with current eligibility to work in the United States
- Coursework in economics, public policy, statistics, mathematics, or data science
- Quantitative background with hands-on experience in Stata, R, or Python
- Demonstrated interest in environmental and energy economics and applied policy questions
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively, manage multiple tasks, and communicate clearly

Intellectual curiosity, internal drive, and a commitment to high-quality work are essential.

How to Apply

Applications reviewed on a rolling basis (*apply before April 15, 2026*). To apply, please email a **single PDF** to:

eil.internships@gmail.com

with the subject line “UVA EEE Internship Application 2026 -- Last, First”.

Please name the PDF attachment “UVA_EEE_materials_2026_LastFirst.pdf”.

The PDF should contain the following materials *in order*:

- 1** Cover letter (*1 page*)
- 2** CV/Resume
- 3** Unofficial transcript (including overall GPA and course grades to date, if available)
- 4** 2-3 contact references—name, title, email address, and relationship to applicant
- 5** Short writing extract (*optional, 1 page max*)
- 6** Coding sample (*optional, 1 page max*)