

# Economics and Politics of the Environment (EPE)

The Economics and Politics of the Environment (EPE) specialization trains students to develop and implement public policies dealing with environmental problems, to manage public environmental resources, and to understand how firms and other organizations respond to these policies and management systems. EPE students acquire knowledge about interactions between the public sector and the private sector and about the impact of political processes on efforts to solve environmental problems.

Students in the EPE specialization take courses in natural resource economics and policy, cost benefit and environmental policy analysis, in addition to developing technical skills and expertise in a substantive area. A more detailed explanation of the curriculum can be found on the [EPE website](#).

## Example EPE related Master's Projects

(click to view project website)

[Increasing Acceptance of Direct Potable Reuse as a Drinking Water Source in Ventura, California](#)

[Economic Analysis of Invasive Giant Reed \(\*Arundo Donax\*\) Control for the Lower Santa Clara River](#)

[Quantifying the benefit of restoring the Lower Yuba River for Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other ecosystem services](#)

[UCSB Optimal Strategies for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2025](#)

Sample job placements for recent EPE Bren School graduates:

### Policy Research Analyst

BCS, Incorporated  
Washington, DC

### Science and Policy Analyst

Heal the Bay  
Santa Monica, CA

### Environmental Policy Associate

ENS Resources, Inc.  
Washington, DC

### Deputy Director

Ministry of the Environment  
Tokyo, Japan

### Economics Research Assistant

Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning  
Beijing, China

### Project Manager

California Land Stewardship Institute  
Napa, CA

### Presidential Management Fellow

USDA Forest Service  
Portland, OR

### Sustainability Associate

California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, CA

### Mitigation Specialist

WRA Environmental Consultants  
San Rafael, CA

### Environmental Protection Specialist

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

### Catch Shares Spatial Analyst

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)  
San Francisco, CA

### Environmental Planner

Rincon Associates  
Ventura, CA

Recent EPE internship placements include:

Beartooth Capital Partners • Bureau of Land Management (BLM) • Conservation International • Environmental Defense Fund • Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary • Morro Bay National Estuary Research Reserve • National Renewable Energy Laboratory • Ocean Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Alliance • Sustainable Fisheries Group • The Equinox Center, Policy and Communication Division • The Nature Conservancy • United Nations Economic Commission of Europe • United Nations Environmental Programme • US Environmental Protection Agency • USDA Forest Service Chief's Scholars Program • Woodard & Curran • World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

