The 2035 Initiative: Climate Adaptation Fellowship
Policy & Communication for Wildfire Resilience

Project Background
Climate change is increasing wildfire risk in California, with escalating impacts on the natural environment as well as agricultural, commercial, and municipal land uses. Over 100 million acres of US land need to be managed to reduce the severity of wildfires, yet treatments are occurring at a rate of only 3 million acres per year. An improved approach to landscape-level management is needed. The Building Resilience to Wildfires project builds on a multi-year cross-disciplinary effort to address this problem with the rapid deployment of environmental sensing technology data science, cutting-edge atmospheric and ecological modeling, and experimental and practical prescribed burns. Funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the project aims to forecast climate conditions and inform risk assessments before the next big wildfire occurs. This research is in its final stages, and The 2035 Initiative will manage policy development and communications of these critical findings.

The fellow will work closely with a Bren graduate student to develop and execute a plan to communicate the project’s research outputs, implications for communities, associated data products, and information to guide strategies for effective prescribed burns. The fellow will produce policy and communications materials – including policy memos, reports, fact sheets, infographics, press releases, social media campaigns, and more – that will be disseminated to policymakers, researchers, partner organizations, and the public.

Desired Qualifications
- Experience and/or interest in climate adaptation and resilience
- Strong written communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

Details
The position is 10 weeks, 35 hours per week, with exact dates flexible from late June to mid-September. The position can be fully remote, or in-person/hybrid at 2035’s office at UCSB. The student will receive a $6500 stipend. This position is part of the Bren Environmental Leadership (BEL) Program – the fellows will participate in professional development training during the summer and a poster session at the Mantell Symposium on Environmental Justice and Conservation Innovation in Fall 2024. Applicants must be full-time continuing UCSB undergraduates (not graduating within the 2024 calendar year).

How to Apply
Please submit applications using this form by March 3 at 11:59 pm. Applications should include:
- A brief statement (2-3 paragraphs) or cover letter describing why you are interested in this project and how your experience and qualifications make you a good fit for the position. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment and supporting diverse students in Environmental Science, including those from underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation college backgrounds, and those active in DEI, environmental justice, or social justice. We welcome insights into how your experiences or perspective might shape your contribution to the BEL community.
- A resume or CV, including any relevant coursework and previous experience

Interview and Selection Process: Approximately two weeks after the submission deadline, applicants selected for interviews will be notified by email. Though only some students will be selected for interviews, all applicants will be notified of the status of their application when the interview/selection process is complete (approximately 3-4 weeks after application deadline).