PhD Research Assistantship Opportunity (Available for Spring 2019)
The College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture (NSFA) at the University of Maine invites applications for a PhD research assistantship beginning in Spring of 2019 (start date is negotiable). The successful candidate will work with an interdisciplinary team of researchers on a recently funded National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Dynamics of Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CNH) grant to study the relationship among tourism and mosquito-transmitted diseases in the Americas. The student will join the natural resources and society research group, and be advised by Dr. Sandra De Urioste-Stone. The successful candidate will conduct qualitative and quantitative social science research to examine how infectious disease outbreaks influence visitor and tourism business health risk perceptions and travel decision making processes.

Key research activities:
- Conduct literature review on tourism and health risk perceptions and travel behavior.
- Work with academic advisor to design the research protocols and conduct qualitative and quantitative data analyses.
- Lead data collection efforts—including semi-structured interviews and visitor surveys.
- Collaborate with research team in the drafting of refereed journal articles, conference presentations, technical reports, and outreach materials.
- Mentor and supervise undergraduate research assistants.

Required Qualifications:
- MS degree in human dimensions of natural resources, nature-based tourism, science communication, or related field.
- Demonstrated social science research experience.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Fluency in Spanish.

Desired Qualifications:
- Interest in conducting field work in Latin America.
- Interest in interdisciplinary (social and biophysical) research.
- Ability to work independently, as well as in a team environment.
- Research background and/or coursework in human dimensions, tourism, communication, or related fields.
- Experience with quantitative research and analysis skills, including survey development and implementation.
- Experience conducting content analysis

Assistantship Package: The assistantship provides a competitive 12-month stipend, tuition waiver, and 50% health insurance coverage. Position is renewable for up to 2 years based on satisfactory progress.

How to apply: Prior to submitting applications to the UMaine Graduate School, interested students please submit a pre-application to Dr. Sandra De Urioste-Stone (sandra.de@maine.edu) by October 15 for full consideration. The pre-application should include: (1) a cover letter summarizing your interest in the position, research qualifications, relevant courses, and career goals; (2) Curriculum Vitae listing GPA and GRE scores; and (3) names, email, and short description of relationship for three professional references.