

# IIC Brazil Summer Policy Lab



The IIC Summer Policy Lab combines an academic approach and an action-oriented perspective to translate research findings into on-the-ground impact.

## A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

### The Opportunity

The International Innovation Corps (IIC) at Chicago Harris is partnering with the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), USAID, Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC) and Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM) to launch a summer opportunity to address pressing issues in biodiversity conservation policy in Brazil. A group of up to 10 UChicago graduate students will spend 10 weeks in Brazil bridging the gap between cutting-edge scientific findings and Brazil's biodiversity conservation efforts. Students will work in a collaborative, multidisciplinary team with an international group of students, researchers and policy experts. This is an exceptional opportunity to study the effects of biodiversity conservation efforts in the Brazilian Amazon and create actionable recommendations to the Brazilian government. Working in Brazil with biodiversity and ecosystem experts, policy experts, students and government officials, UChicago students will learn how research can be used to drive broad-scale change across one of the world's most important and vulnerable ecosystems.

### The Projects

A great deal of what we know about the interactions of deforestation, forest resilience, agriculture and climate comes from a group of Brazilian and US researchers who have developed a series of large, integrated experiments on forests, fire, watersheds, soils, climate and agricultural practices. This team includes Christopher Neill (MBL), Paulo Brando (IPAM), and Michael Coe (WHRC) and others who conduct ecosystem and biodiversity-related research at Tanguro Ranch in Mato Grosso.

Students in the IIC Brazil Summer Policy Lab will collaborate with these research teams and Brazilian students. They will identify important policy questions and then assemble and apply data from ongoing field experiments and other sources to develop and evaluate policy options for Brazilian Amazon forest and biodiversity conservation. Students will address topics such as policy opportunities to preserve and expand protected areas in the Amazon; policies for implementation of the Brazil Forest Code to protect forest and riparian buffers; and policies to diminish the use and damaging consequences of Amazon fires.

*IIC Fellows will conduct ecosystem and biodiversity-related research at Tanguro Ranch (above). Photo by Chris Neill.*



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*IIC Fellow Mrinalini Penumaka  
brainstorms ideas for an  
upcoming project.*

*Photo by Jamie Manley.*

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Participating Students Will...

- Spend the summer in the Brazilian capital collaborating with a global team of leading scientists, policy experts and students.
- Participate in an orientation in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, led by MBL and WHRC scientists that will identify potential ways science can be applied to Amazon forest and biodiversity conservation policy.
- Engage in professional development opportunities and language activities at UChicago.
- Travel from Brasilia to Amazonian sites to gain firsthand experience of the region's most important conservation challenges.
- Analyze comprehensive datasets from research sites in the Amazon to evaluate policy implications.
- Work on a collaborative, multidisciplinary team to generate policy statements for how new policies might impact biodiversity in the Amazon.
- Put policy expertise to use by presenting specific policy recommendations and an implementation strategy to the Brazilian government.

### The Details

All currently enrolled graduate students at UChicago are eligible to apply. There are no prerequisite requirements, but skills or experience in these areas is preferred: data analytics, GIS, Portuguese or Spanish language, biological sciences, physical and natural sciences, geography, public policy. We will accept applications on a rolling basis. Students will receive a stipend of \$3,000 to cover maintenance and expenses. Lodging and international flight to/from Brazil included.

### Learn More

If you are interested in learning more or applying for this summer opportunity, please contact Nicole Anderson at [ndanderson@uchicago.edu](mailto:ndanderson@uchicago.edu).