

UMaine Research Assistant for Registered Maine Guide Policy Review

Position Title: Student Research Assistant

Project: *Policy Review of Maine's Registered Maine Guide (RMG) Program*

Duration: February 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Funding: Up to 10 hours/wk at a rate of \$15.80-\$18.80/hour, depending on student experience

Eligibility: Graduate and Undergraduate students can apply

Project Description:

The Registered Maine Guide (RMG) system was [created in 1897](#), and though there have been revisions to the original statute, the basics have remained the same for over a century: people who receive compensation for leading others into the woods and onto the waterways of the state of Maine must be a Registered Maine Guide.

There have been two major exemptions created for the RMG statute: the Camp Trip Leader (CTL) exemption and the Educational Trip Leader (ETL) exemption. The [CTL program](#) was originally established in the 1980's, in recognition that it was not realistic for summer camps in Maine to hire RMGs for all of their outings. The [ETL program](#) was established in 2020 for the same reasons, but for educational institutions. In both cases, interested parties did not want the constraints of RMG statute to limit youth participation in outdoor activities.

There is an on-going conflict between the goal of having the RMG licensing process be related to participant safety and the desire to make use of the RMG brand for marketing or commercial purposes. This conflict limits the State's ability to assess the utility of the statute, and make potentially helpful changes.

The purpose of this research is to:

- Uncover the issues still remaining with the RMG statute and rules, as well as any new challenges caused by the latest statutory exemption (ETL),
- Gather data, including Search and Rescue (SAR) and incident data, that would be helpful in supporting the policy analysis, and
- Provide a comprehensive policy analysis that could be used by interested parties in developing a more durable policy solution to the problems at hand.

Student Research Position Description:

The student will work closely with the faculty research team, and will be responsible for gathering and organizing secondary data related to the policy analysis. This will include existing statutes and policies, as well as incident and search and rescue data. Additional primary data gathering, such as surveys, may also be required. Training in these kinds of research techniques will be provided as needed.

Required Skills:

- Ability to work independently
- Ability to collaborate and communicate effectively with faculty research team

- Detail oriented and organized

Preferred Experience:

- Social science data analysis
- Familiarity with outdoor recreation and outdoor education in Maine
- Junior or senior standing as an undergraduate, or any level of graduate student

To Apply: Please send your resume, a cover letter, and the name and contact information for a faculty member who can serve as a reference to Dr. Lauren Jacobs, Lecturer in Outdoor Leadership in the School of Kinesiology, Physical Education, and Athletic Training
lauren.jacobs@maine.edu

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue on an on-going basis until the position is filled. The University of Maine is an EEO/AA employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.