

## Project Scientist – 15%

### Nutrition Policy Institute

**Location Headquarters: 1111 Franklin Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA**

### Position Overview

#### Purpose:

The Project Scientist leads the design and statistical analyses of research, policy, and program evaluation studies to advance the mission of NPI and ANR. The Project Scientist collaborates and consults with professional colleagues and analytic teams of academic and professional staff at NPI to design evaluation and research studies including sampling frames, to analyze data using appropriate statistical tests including weighting when needed, and to interpret analytical findings. In addition, the Project Scientist assists with project deliverables, such as presentations in academic and practice settings, reports, white papers, research briefs, and peer-reviewed academic publications. The Project Scientist works closely with senior leadership at NPI to design and secure new contracts and grants, and is responsible for advising the analytic unit of the Institute. This unit includes staff trained in epidemiology, statistics and data management. When appropriate the Project Scientist will identify and work with other statistical partners in key areas for collaboration at NPI.

**This position is a part-time limited appointment at 15%, offered in the Associate Project Scientist Rank**

#### Specific responsibilities include:

- Design complex population based sampling strategies and estimate sample sizes needed for NPI studies.
- Direct the development of new studies including design, methodology, data analysis plans, and writing of grant proposals.
- Conduct sophisticated data analytics including multilevel analyses, trend analyses, surveillance systems and other data analyses as needed.
- Design and oversee quality assurance systems for data collection and analyses.
- Advise on data cleaning and merging functions for NPI studies.
- Ensure that NPI data files and analysis codes are well documented and that data are properly labeled, securely stored, and archived.
- Oversee preparation of data tables and summaries.
- Review and revise project summaries, and interim and final reports for funders and other stakeholders.
- In collaboration with members of the research team, prepare manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals as well as research briefs, white papers, policy briefs, and slide decks for presentations to share research findings with funders, practitioners, community groups, advocates, decision makers, and the academic community.
- Participate in professional organizations.



- Collaborate with federal, state and county governmental agencies, non-government organizations and others by providing independent science-based information and leadership.
- Maintain a program of continuous self-improvement by participating in trainings, seminars, workshops, staff meetings, and other relevant opportunities to stay abreast of new developments in epidemiology and statistical analysis.

**Reporting Relationship:** The Project Scientist is administratively responsible to Gail Woodward-Lopez, Associate Director of Research, Nutrition Policy Institute.

## Qualifications and Skills Required

### Required Qualifications:

A minimum of Ph.D. degree or equivalent (DrPH) in statistics, epidemiology, or closely related field is required. Experience conducting nutrition- or physical activity-related public health evaluations required. Background in health policy related research preferred.

### Required Qualifications:

- A minimum of 5 years' experience in the design and evaluation of studies.
- Experience evaluating multi-sector, place-based healthy eating and active living interventions.
- Experience conducting applied policy-relevant health-related research.
- Experience in conducting complex population based sampling designs.
- Experience with reliability and validity testing methodologies.
- Experience in designing and conducting and analyzing cross-sectional and longitudinal studies.
- Familiarity with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education design and evaluation.
- Experience using data analysis software including SAS, SPSS, R and/or STATA.
- Grant writing experience including study design, methodology, sample sizes and analysis plans.
- Experience supervising and mentoring data management and analysis staff.
- Leadership in writing articles published in peer reviewed journals and scientific reports.
- Ability to prioritize, yet effectively complete multiple projects simultaneously.
- Skill in working effectively with diverse persons with varied experiences, views and values.
- Experience communicating and translating complex statistical information in a clear and concise way, both verbally and in writing.

### Must Demonstrate:

- Ability to problem solve, meet deadlines and produce deliverables, and adapt to changing situations on multi-faceted projects.
- Skill in designing policy relevant research.
- Ability to supervise and teach staff statistical methods.

**Skills Required:** To be successful, a Project Scientist requires skills in the following:

### Professional Competence and Impact

All UC ANR Project Scientist series titles are required to demonstrate professional competence in their programmatic areas.

- Experience in effectively collaborating with and facilitating meetings with diverse stakeholders (in California and/or in other regions the U.S.), including food and agriculture businesses, nonprofit organizations, and/or government institutions.
- Document, publish, and share project work and accomplishments in peer-reviewed journals and through other publications that are relevant to and will reach key audiences.
- Participation in professional societies and conferences and ability to give presentations at seminars and continuing education functions.

### Communication

- Strong written and verbal communication skills are required.

### Collaboration, Teamwork and Flexibility

- Ability to self-direct and balance simultaneous projects and to work in teams.
- Professionally represent ANR and BFI in various forms of collaboration, conferences, and communication opportunities in this field.

### Lifelong Learning

Demonstrated commitment to ongoing professional development and personal growth.

## About UC ANR

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) consists of a network of scientists and educators working in partnership across the California. We are committed to developing and supporting healthy food systems, healthy environments, healthy communities, and healthy Californians. UC ANR administers UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), which is responsible for program development and delivery in the counties throughout the state of California.

### Learn more about

- UC ANR at <https://UCANR.edu>; <https://ucanr.edu/About/Locations/>
- Nutrition Policy Institute: <http://npi.ucanr.edu/>
- Extension Resources at <https://impact.extension.org/>
- Our Strategic Initiatives at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/StrategicInitiatives/>
- Our Public Value statements at [https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/2016-2020 Strategic Plan/Goal 5 Prioritize programs and services/Public values statement/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/2016-2020%20Strategic%20Plan/Goal%205%20Prioritize%20programs%20and%20services/Public%20values%20statement/)
- Affirmative Action: Further to the above, advisors are expected to share and exhibit UC ANR's commitment to affirmative action. Learn more of UC ANR Affirmative Action policy: [http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative Action/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative%20Action/)

## Salary & Benefits

**SALARY:** Beginning salary will be in the Associate Project Scientist Rank, up to Step 5. For information regarding the Project series salary scales, please refer to: <https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/files/2021/2020-21-academic-salary-program/t37-b.pdf>. This is a represented position. Placement within the rank will depend on experience.

The Project Scientist position is a non-career track position. This position is a six-month part time appointment, renewable based on funding availability, the need for position and performance evaluation. This position will be evaluated annually. The merit cycle is every two-three years, depending on rank/step.

**Benefits:** The University of California offers comprehensive benefits including two days per month paid vacation, one day per month paid sick leave, and approximately thirteen paid holidays per year. ANR is part of UC's Family-Friendly Policies. For more information, refer to the UC Benefits website at: <http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

## How to Apply

If interested in this position, please visit: <https://recruit.ucanr.edu/> and choose "applicants" (refer to position #21-01)

**Closing Date:** To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by **February 27, 2021**.

## Questions?

Contact Tatiana Avoce; email: [tavoce@ucanr.edu](mailto:tavoce@ucanr.edu)

Applicants may wish to explore the UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars web page at <https://siss.ucdavis.edu/> as a resource.

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*University of California Cooperative Extension*

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The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

As of January 1, 2014, ANR is a smoke- and tobacco-free environment in which smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, and the use of unregulated nicotine products (e-cigarettes), is strictly prohibited.