Hello!

Thank you for your interest in the **Ecohydrology Laboratory** in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley.

Ecohydrology is a fairly new discipline that focuses on the interaction of ecosystems and the water cycle. Lifeforms (especially plants, but also animals such as beavers – and of course people!) change the availability of water, and the availability of water alters what plants and animals can live in a given place. This means that ecohydrology is all about *feedbacks.* Feedbacks generate interesting and surprising outcomes, so ecohydrology is not only important to society, but also intriguing and fun. Our group explores ecohydrology on scales ranging from individual leaves, to whole plants, ecosystems, landscapes and river basins.

We use a range of methods, roughly split between theoretical work/modeling; field observations/measurements; and remote sensing. We do some laboratory work, but it tends to supplement these other approaches. Many of our research students use a combination of approaches. Many of our study systems are located in California, but we also have projects motivated by water and life questions emerging in Brazil, India, Ethiopia and Nepal.

Before contacting me about opportunities in my group, **please review the information below**.

If you are interested in joining our Department for a **Masters**, review the detailed information about an MSc. in Environmental Engineering [here](http://www.ce.berkeley.edu/programs/env/graduate-requirements). Our Masters program is *almost always* conducted as a 1-year Masters by coursework. Research experience in this program can replace one class. It is not full-scale Masters project/thesis. **You do not need to be accepted into a lab to undertake a Masters in our Department.** Research work in my group usually won’t be used to fund a Masters program.

If you are interested in joining our lab for a **PhD**, you need to hold a Masters degree in Environmental Engineering or equivalent. You also need to identify a funding pathway – e.g. working with me on an external grant, obtaining a fellowship, some teaching. Students can’t support 100% of their PhD with teaching. A productive approach is to discuss potential fellowship applications to [NSF](https://www.nsfgrfp.org), [NASA](https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/fellowship-programs), [DoD](https://ndseg.asee.org) or elsewhere with me. If you’re an international student, consider applying for a [Fulbright](http://www.cies.org), or scholarships specific to your country (Aussies – consider a [Monash](https://johnmonash.com/monash-scholars) – this was how I supported my PhD work, and it’s a fantastic program).

If you are interested in joining our lab as a **postdoctoral scholar**, you will also need to determine a funding pathway. In general, I’m happy to discuss fellowship applications. UC Berkeley has some [specific fellowships](http://vspa.berkeley.edu/postdoc-funding-programs), as do numerous Federal agencies. International scholars can also sometimes pick up country-specific scholarships.

I hope this information is useful! For more information, please browse the student information and publications on my website – you’ll get a sense of what our research interests and outputs look like. Best of luck as you make your decisions about graduate school and next steps,

Sally Thompson