The UC Natural Reserve System offers access to an array of ecosystems throughout California. Reserves offer outdoor laboratories to field scientists, classrooms without walls for students, and nature’s inspiration to all.

The NRS encompasses 40 wildland sites totaling more than 750,000 acres across the state. Most major state ecosystems are represented, from coastal tidepools to inland deserts, and lush wetlands to mountain forests.

Reserve amenities can include on-site laboratories, housing in remote areas, Internet, protection for research equipment, libraries, specimen collections, historic data sets, and more.

Hundreds of UC faculty and their graduate students conduct research at NRS sites each year.

Learn more about doing NRS research as a UC graduate student at nrs.ucop.edu/Chile/

Current graduate projects

- Tagging northern elephant seals with GPS units to track their migrations across the Pacific Ocean
- Investigating the roles of microbial endophytes in plant fitness
- Tracing the movement of water through the rocks, soils, rivers, and trees of a redwood forest
- Mapping earthquake faults and movements at Long Valley Caldera
- Forecasting how climate change will alter the ranges of native plants and their ecosystems