



Katherine Annette Dynarski
University of California
USA

As a former researcher of boreal peatland biogeochemistry and a current researcher of temperate forest nitrogen cycling, I am excited about the opportunity to spend time in the tropics! As an undergraduate, I worked with Dr. Melanie Vile at Villanova University and examined nutrient limitation to biological nitrogen fixation in Canadian boreal peatlands. Currently, I am a Soils & Biogeochemistry Ph.D. candidate in Dr. Ben Houlton's lab at the University of California, Davis and continue to research terrestrial nitrogen cycling. I am fascinated by interactions between microorganisms that transform nitrogen and the larger-scale factors that influence their activity, ranging from localized controls such as soil heterogeneity to broader factors such as geology and climate. My graduate research considers diverse topics such as global controls of free-living biologic nitrogen fixation, plant-soil-microbe interactions influenced by bedrock nitrogen inputs in temperate forests, and competition between mycorrhizal fungal types to obtain nitrogen in highly weathered, infertile soils.