



California Sea Grant - Request For Applications 2024 Graduate Research Fellowship January 31, 2023



Lian Guo | *Research Coordinator*
Email: sgproposal@ucsd.edu



Please note that:

- The information in this presentation is accurate as of January 31, 2023
- The timeline and details of the 2024 request for proposals (RFP) contained herein are subject to change
- Any updates to the timeline or the RFP will be listed on the sea grant website:
 - <https://caseagrants.ucsd.edu/funding/2024-graduate-research-fellowship>
- We urge potential applicants to refer to the RFP itself when preparing applications and not solely rely on the information in this presentation.



Webinar Objectives

- Overview of the request for proposals
- Review important application components
- Answer questions that potential applicants may have





Webinar Guidelines



- All participants automatically muted during presentation
- “Show captions” to enable transcription
- Ask questions using the Q&A box
- Recording of the presentation will be made available on California Sea Grant website
- Please reserve very specific questions for email (sgproposal@ucsd.edu)





California Sea Grant

Mission:

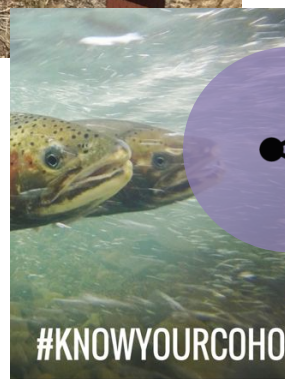
To provide the information, tools, training, and relationships needed to help California conserve and sustainably prosper from our coastal and marine environments.



Grants & Funding



Fellowships



Communications



Extension



Graduate Research Fellowship Goals:



The goals of the Graduate Research Fellowship Program are to:

1. Engage highly qualified scientific talent to help advance the state of scientific knowledge;
2. Provide support for the training and development of scientists able to work in multidisciplinary, field-oriented and/or modeling-based applied research intended to support resource management;
3. Promote scientific partnerships across agencies, research institutions, and non-profit organizations; and
4. Invest in people -- particularly the graduate and post-graduate fellows and alumni, who will become future coastal and marine science, policy and management leaders -- and provide them with the knowledge and expertise to thrive now and in the future.



Graduate Research Fellowship Key Components:



- Support for applied graduate student research
- Centering issues relevant to California communities, and projects that are likely to yield measurable impacts to the local economy, community, and environment
- Mentorship by a research mentor and community mentor
- Strategy for outreach and engagement



Award Information

- This RFA is focused on proposals that address objectives specific to the Resilient Communities and Economies (RCE), and *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (SFA) sections of our 2024-2027 strategic plan
 - ** Please note that at this time we are not accepting proposals related to aquaculture. See Aquaculture 2024 RFP*
- We anticipate funding **up to 9 projects** contingent upon receipt of anticipated funds from NOAA.
- The duration of a project request is typically two years, though requests for a 1-year award are also welcomed





Award Information



- Project budgets may request **up to \$45,000 per year**
 - Can include funds for a stipend and research-related expenses
 - The amount requested for a graduate stipend must conform to your institution's normal stipend for a half-time graduate student at their level of experience
 - Can request less than \$45,000 per year
 - If applicable, indicate expected costs for expendable supplies, publication costs, and travel.
- For this solicitation, research projects are required to provide 25% in matching funds from non federal sources
 - CSU graduate students that meet the eligibility requirements of this RFP are encouraged to contact CSU COAST to discuss possible matching funds.

Work with your PI(s) and sponsored projects office on your budget!



Timeline

- **March 1, 2023 by 5:00 pm PT** - Pre-proposals due via eSeaGrant
- **March - April, 2023** - Reviews of pre-proposals
- **Early May** - Feedback on pre-proposals sent back to applicants
- **June 21, 2023 by 5:00 pm PT** - Full proposals due via eSeaGrant
- **June - August, 2023** - Review of full proposals
- **September 2023** - Applicants notified of recommendations to fund projects (*expected*)
- **On/after February 1, 2024** - Projects begin





Eligibility



- Applicants must be **enrolled in a full-time graduate or professional degree program at a California academic institution prior to the award of the fellowship**, beginning no later than Fall 2024
 - Master's and PhD applicants all welcome!
 - Provisional acceptances are allowed
- Candidates must remain associated with an accredited California institution of higher learning for the duration of the award.
- Applicants **must be eligible to receive federal funds**; it is the responsibility of the applicant to check with their institution if they are eligible to receive federal funds and (if applicable) obtain the appropriate VISA to work at their institution during the fellowship period.
- Applicants must include a **research mentor** (typically will be the student's academic advisor) and a **community mentor**



Research Mentor(s)

- Typically the academic advisor
- Must be scientists actively engaged in environmental science, social science, policy, or economics as the primary focus of their position, with a publication record in peer-reviewed scientific journals
- Must be permitted by their institution to serve as principal investigators on grants
- Must be from the academic institution at which the fellow is enrolled
- Fellowship applicants must include a letter of commitment from the research mentor they plan to work with on the proposed effort





The apparent or demonstrated depth of proposed collaboration with the community mentor(s) is an important factor in the selection process and applicants are encouraged to enlist the community mentor in developing their proposal early in the process.

Community Mentor(s)

- Must be familiar with existing data and/or resource issues central to the proposed research.
- Should be individuals whose work requires the application of scientific information and findings that will result from the fellow's research project.
 - E.g., local, regional, state, and federal agencies; tribal governments; non-governmental organizations; marine and coastal industry representatives; community based organizations
 - *Collaborations with community mentors that represent the interests of Indigenous, disadvantaged and underserved communities are highly encouraged.*
- Given the diversity of projects typically funded, California Sea Grant recognizes that the community mentor collaboration in the project may look different from one project to the next. Each should be tailored to the specific project proposed.



EAR BREAK & QUESTIONS?

UP NEXT!

- Priority Focus Areas/Topics
- Pre-Proposal Components & Evaluation
- Full Proposal Components & Evaluation
- Selection Criteria

Strategic Focus Area - Resilient Communities and Economies



- **RCE GOAL 1:** California's coastal communities are better prepared for extreme and chronic weather and coastal hazards, climate change, economic disruptions and other threats to community health and well-being with support from science partnerships and the (co-) production of knowledge.
- **RCE GOAL 2:** California's coastal communities have the information, partnerships and tools needed to support planning, policy and actions for emerging marine and coastal industries and resource management that ensure an equitable and resilient path forward.

Strategic Focus Area - Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

** Please note that at this time we will not be accepting projects related to aquaculture*

- **SFA GOAL 1:** California's fisheries, aquaculture, seafood systems and the environments that support them are environmentally, economically and socially more sustainable and resilient to future change through the facilitation of partnerships and the (co-) production of knowledge.
- **SFA GOAL 2:** California's fishing, aquaculture and seafood industries have evidence-based information, partnerships and tools needed to support decision-making and a sustainable path forward through community engagement, collaboration and education.



Cross-Cutting Focus Area - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility



- **DEIJA Goal 2:** Across our staff and network, California Sea Grant builds a program where a diversity of lived experiences are represented, particularly Indigenous, underserved and underrepresented identities in marine and coastal sciences, thereby facilitating a culture of belonging and equitable support.
- **DEIJA Goal 3:** California Sea Grant and its network co-produce knowledge, create access to scientific information and support research and scholarship priorities of value to a diversity of communities, focused on Indigenous, underserved and underrepresented peoples.

PRIORITY RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP)

- This panel is codified in California state law with the purpose of advising and assisting California Sea Grant.
- Input from RASGAP is directed toward identifying and meeting priorities for funding according to the needs identified by state resource protection and management agencies. The RASGAP panel reviews research proposals and provides a resource protection- and management-relevant view of proposal value.
- Compiled research priorities from participating member agencies to provide prospective applicants management relevant research priorities are linked in this section of the RFP.



Required Application Components - Pre-Proposal

Formatting guidelines can be found in the RFP.

1. **Name of applicant, affiliation, and contact information, title, funding requested, focus areas**
2. **Project narrative** (3 pg max excl references)
 - project goals or objectives; background justifying the project; project methods; engagement strategies; potential outcomes, benefits, and broader impacts (i.e., how the proposed work will inform science, regulators, the general public, advance diversity, equity, and inclusion and/or work to achieve other beneficial, broader societally-relevant impacts)
3. **Curriculum Vitae (CVs)** (2 pg max each) - for applicant, research mentor, and community mentor (*if identified at this stage*).
4. **Name of research mentor(s)** (*required*)
5. **Name of community mentor(s)** (*if identified, otherwise list potential mentors*)
6. **Permit statement**
7. **Five Potential Reviewers**
8. **Demographics questionnaire** (optional)



Pre-Proposal Review

- **Pre-proposals will be reviewed by**
 - 1) an outside panel of technical experts and
 - 2) by RASGAP for state management relevance
- **Evaluation criteria**
 - Alignment of Proposed Projects to RFP Research Priorities (50%)
 - Technical/Scientific Merit (10%)
 - Overall Qualifications of the Applicant (10%)
 - Outreach and Engagement (20%)
 - Diversity, equity, and inclusion (10%)
- **Emails to applicants will be sent out in early May 2023 to encourage or discourage a full proposal.**
 - *Technical panel and RASGAP input are considered together to determine which proposals will be encouraged for full proposal development.*
 - *Note: only those who submit a pre-proposal are eligible to submit a full proposal*





Required Application Components - Full Proposal

Component	Page Limit	Notes
Signed Institutional Cover Page	1 pg	Requires sponsored projects office signature! (Excel workbook)
California Sea Grant's Focus Areas	NA	
Project Summary	1000 characters	
Project Narrative	8 pg excl refs	
Personal Career Statement	2 pg	
Outreach and Engagement Plan	2 pg	Developed with community mentor, highly encouraged to focus on underserved and/or disadvantaged communities
CVs and Additional Personnel	2 pg each	For applicant, research mentor(s), and community mentor(s)
Letters of Support (4 total)	2 pg each	Letters of commitment from prospective community mentor(s), research mentor(s) and two letters of academic recommendation

continued on next slide...



Required Application Components - Full Proposal

Component	Page Limit	Notes
Copies of graduate and undergraduate transcripts	NA	Unofficial is fine; redact sensitive personal information
Budget Narrative	NA	Strongly encourage applicants to work with their research mentor and institution's research administration or sponsored programs office to develop their budgets; check out excel workbook!
Data Management Plan	2 pg	
Environmental Compliance Questionnaire and permits	NA	
Current and Pending Support	NA	For key personnel; template in excel workbook!
Demographic Questionnaire (Optional)	NA	

**** NOTE: Applicants will not receive access to the full proposal submission portal in eSeaGrant until a few days after the pre-proposal submission deadline.***



Full Proposal Review

- All full proposals will be reviewed by an outside panel of technical experts
- Full proposals deemed fundable by the technical panel will be reviewed by RASGAP for state management relevance
- **Evaluation criteria**
 - Alignment of Proposed Projects to RFP Research Priorities (30%)
 - Technical/Scientific Merit (30%)
 - Overall Qualifications of the Applicant (5%)
 - Project Costs (5%)
 - Outreach and Engagement (20%)
 - Diversity, equity, and inclusion (10%)
- **We hope to notify all applicants of their selection status in September 2023. Selected projects would start on/after Feb 1, 2024**





Selection Criteria

Selection of proposals for funding shall occur in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - Geographically
 - By type of institution
 - By type of partners
 - By focus area
 - By project types
3. Targeting gaps in priority strategic plan goals and objectives
4. Addressing the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility (DEIJA) goals of the California Sea Grant Strategic Plan, including fostering partnerships with Indigenous, underserved, and/or underrepresented peoples.
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.



Let's take a look at the Excel Workbook and eSeaGrant



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU

Lian Guo, *Research Coordinator*
sgproposal@ucsd.edu

Rose Madson, *Assistant Director*
sgbudget@ucsd.edu