

Connecticut Sea Grant Undergraduate Research Fellowship Opportunity

The goal of the Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG) Undergraduate Research Fellowship is to broaden participation of underrepresented/underserved students in marine and coastal professions by providing early career experience, training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision makers, and marine industry professionals. The program will do so by funding a research fellowship for up to two undergraduate students who represent the human social diversity of the communities of Connecticut. Underrepresented minorities and socioeconomically disadvantaged students as well as students of color, indigenous students, Veterans of the US Armed Forces, members of the LGBTQ community, and students with disabilities are encouraged to seek a Research Mentor with whom to apply for this opportunity.

Up to two fellowships, each with a \$5,000 stipend, will be offered this summer to enable selected students to conduct independent research under the guidance of a Research Mentor. The application process requires submission of a mentor-proposed natural or social science-based research project and a student nomination for the research fellowship. The research project must be completed over the summer, and be focused on a coastal, marine or watershed issue relevant to the Connecticut Sea Grant Strategic Plan for 2018-2023, which can be accessed at: https://seagrants.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1985/2020/11/CTSG-strategic-plan-2018-2023-final_optimized.pdf.

With this Call, Connecticut Sea Grant solicits research proposals and student nominees from Research Mentors affiliated with a Connecticut-based college, university, or non-profit educational/research institution. The Research Mentor will be responsible for providing the nominated student with resources, guidance and mentoring to undertake a natural or social science-based research or policy-related fellowship project. Prospective Research Mentors should nominate students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and/or individuals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Student Nominees must have completed at least one year at an accredited two- or four-year university or college in Connecticut and submit a statement of interest as part of the application process.

Timeline

- Monday January 18: Call for submissions/Fellow Recruitment
- Monday March 15: Submission deadline
- Mid-April: Fellowship selections announced
- May 31: Fellowship commences
- August 20: Fellowship ends

Prospective Fellow Information

Eligibility

Research Mentor Applicants: Connecticut Sea Grant proposes to select students by soliciting research proposals and student nominees from researchers at Connecticut-based academic or non-profit educational or research institutions. Submissions by and/or collaborative partnerships with one or more of the following are encouraged: Sponsoring faculty of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and Community College systems.

The Research Mentor must:

- Be affiliated with a Connecticut college, university; formal or informal environmental- or marine-focused research, education or outreach organization
- Be engaged in natural or social science research relevant to the Connecticut Sea Grant mission and 2018-23 Strategic Plan objectives.
- Nominate an eligible student to work with them on an independent research project for the duration of a 9-week fellowship

The Research Mentor is responsible for providing the Student Fellow with:

- the resources and guidance to undertake a research project that can be completed in 9-weeks;
- guidance on the natural or social science-based research, outreach, or policy topic; day-to-day guidance of the Student Fellow as needed, office and/or lab space, and access to a computer, Internet and telephone as needed.

Nominated students: Recognizing that some groups have historically been underrepresented in the sciences, this program is for Student Nominees from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Students will be nominated for the fellowship by an academic advisor (“Research Mentor”) who is willing to provide the student with adequate and relevant laboratory and office space and equipment, serve as the student’s mentor and oversee their independent research throughout the fellowship period. Student Fellows will work 9 weeks within the period of May 31 through mid-August, be provided with a \$5000 stipend and engage in at least 24-hours of work per week.

Student nominees must be:

- enrolled undergraduate students at an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university located in Connecticut;
- U.S. citizens or residents and have completed at least one year of study towards a Bachelor’s or Associates degree.

- pursuing or have a degree in a science or marine-related field, including social sciences, oceanography, environmental and fishery sciences and marine related technical degrees.

Inclusivity Statement

People of color, indigenous people, US Veterans, members of the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities, underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and/or individuals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged to seek a Research Mentor with whom to apply. All Research Mentors and Student Nominees, regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, or other demographics should demonstrate awareness of diversity issues and a commitment to the advancement of equity and inclusion.

Fellowship Program Application Guidelines

Application Deadline: 5 PM ET on March 15, 2021

Proposed Research: The proposed research must take place within the state of Connecticut and be a natural or social science-based project focused on a coastal and marine issue relevant to the Connecticut Sea Grant Strategic Plan for 2018-2023, which can be accessed at:

https://seagrant.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1985/2020/11/CTSG-strategic-plan-2018-2023-final_optimized.pdf, and must be completed in 9 weeks.

Application and Submission Information

From the Research Mentor:

A complete set of application materials must include:

- 1) A statement with a description of the proposed project (Maximum 3 single-spaced pages excluding items 2 & 3, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman or other font with no more than 6 lines per inch). The statement should describe:
 - a) the proposed project and how it relates to Long Island Sound stewardship or other coastal and marine topics relevant to the Connecticut Sea Grant Strategic Plan;
 - b) how the Student Nominee qualifies for this Fellowship under the eligibility requirements;
 - c) how the Student Fellow will be mentored and what relevant research facilities and equipment will be available to them;
- 2) A letter of support regarding the nominated student's skills and qualifications relevant to the proposed project;
- 3) A current biosketch (2-page max).

From the Nominated Student:

- 1) A statement with a statement of interest (Maximum 2 single-spaced pages excluding items 2 & 3, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman or other font with no more than 6 lines per inch). The statement should include:
 - a) A description of how the proposed project relates to the nominated student's future career goals;
 - b) Experiences the candidate expects to receive from this training;
- 2) Unofficial copies of all college transcripts/evidence of college enrollment;
- 3) A current biosketch (2-page max).

How to Apply

Applicants (Research Mentors) should send their compiled fellowship applications (including all of the requested Research Mentor and Student nominee materials) as one file in PDF or MS WORD format by 5 PM ET on March 15, 2021 by email to SeaGrantResearch@uconn.edu.

Finalist Selection

Applications will be reviewed by the Connecticut Sea Grant Fellowship Review Panel. The Review Panel will select up to 2 fellowship proposals for funding for summer 2021.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of Sea Grant staff members that may include representation from the program Senior Advisory Board members, on the basis of:

- 1) Proposed research:
 - Relevance to the Connecticut Sea Grant mission and strategic plan objectives;
 - Scientific merit;
 - Quality of mentoring plan;
 - Ability complete in 9 weeks.
- 2) Student candidate's application materials including:
 - Statement of professional and academic motivations and interests.

Selection Criteria

- 1) Programmatic factors that might influence selection after the technical evaluation include the diversity of institutions from which the fellows will be selected

Note

We acknowledge that the COVID 19 pandemic has and may continue to cause disruptions at several levels. It is the program's intent to build as much flexibility as possible in making adjustments to the fellowship program to assure a meaningful experience for the fellows.

For More Information

See <https://seagrant.uconn.edu/funding/fellowships/>, or contact:

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Please note that due to Covid-19 pandemic precautions, I am working remotely for the foreseeable future and do not have access to my office phone. Please correspond with me by email and we can connect by phone call, WebEx or other virtual meeting platform, as appropriate.