

Connecticut Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Economics Graduate Fellowship Program

Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG) proposes to initiate a **Coastal and Marine Economics Graduate Fellowship Program** which will enable one selected graduate student per year to conduct independent fundamental or applied economic research for one year under the guidance of their academic advisor. The purpose of the fellowship is three-fold: (1) advance progress towards the coastal and marine goals of the CTSG 2018-23 Strategic Plan through their individual project, (2) learn about CTSG and engage staff on economic aspects of existing and emerging program needs, and (3) promote a real-world professional development opportunity aimed at enhancing the career goals of the fellow.

Eligibility

The 2021-22 fellowship is open to graduate students who will be enrolled in an economics-related MS or PhD graduate program in a Connecticut academic institution during the duration of the fellowship (i.e. the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters). The fellowship is open to applicants irrespective of their citizenship or nationality, as long as they are enrolled in an eligible graduate program. The successful fellow's academic advisor must be affiliated with a Connecticut academic institution, with expertise relevant to the proposed research. CTSG is strongly committed to enhancing diversity, equity and inclusivity in higher education and encourages submissions that help achieve those objectives.

Fellowship award

One CTSG Graduate Economics Fellowship will be awarded for the 2021-22 academic year. The award will consist of a service-free fellowship providing a \$20,000 annual stipend (paid monthly). Preference will be given to applications for which the host department will couple the fellowship with a partial or full assistantship that covers the fellow's graduate tuition and benefits (see below).

CTSG areas of particular interest

- Valuation of ongoing efforts/sectors relevant to Sea Grant activities, such as valuing recreational fisheries in Connecticut, marsh restoration efforts, etc.
- Valuation of environmental services
- Economic analyses of climate change impacts on coastal and marine sectors and ecosystem services in Connecticut
- Economic and societal impacts derived from Sea Grant activities (market and non-market; jobs and businesses created or sustained)
- Economic value of coastal and marine habitats and ecosystems.

Application process

The application must include the following:

1. *A cover letter*

The cover letter should be no more than two pages in length, and clearly express the applicant's interest in and motivation for the Coastal and Marine Graduate Economics Fellowship program, the anticipated benefits for CTSG, anticipated professional development benefits for the applicant and an explanation of how the opportunity aligns with their career goals.

2. A research proposal

The research proposal must show relevance to the CTSG 2018-23 Strategic Plan (https://seagrant.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1985/2020/11/CTSG-strategic-plan-2018-2023-final_optimized.pdf), should address fundamental or applied economics aspects and one of more of the specific areas of interest listed above. The proposed research must be completed within one academic year, with the potential for the successful fellow to complete the fellowship during the summer support. The proposal should be no more than 4 pages long, and include the following sections:

- A. Relevance (Background/introduction/justification)
- B. Project goals/objectives
- C. Methodological approach
- D. Alignment with the CTSG 2018-23 Strategic Plan (cite specific themes and objectives that your work addresses)
- E. Anticipated benefits for CTSG and/or end-users
- F. Timeline to completion

3. A letter of endorsement from the academic advisor

The successful fellow will require the support of the applicant's academic advisor with expertise relevant to the proposed research. The endorsement letter, on institutional letterhead, must document the applicant's qualifications for the proposed project, the relevance of the mentor's qualifications/expertise to the proposed project, as well as a brief mentorship plan to assure both the successful outcome of the project and the fellow's professional development.

4. Resumes for both the fellowship applicant and academic advisor

The application requires 2-page resumes from both the applicant and academic advisor. The resumes should highlight qualifications and relevant professional experience for the proposed project.

All application materials will be in 12-point font, with 1" margins. Submit application materials as a single (compiled) PDF file. **Electronic files *must* be sent by e-mail to SeagrantResearch@uconn.edu for receipt no later than 4:30 p.m. EDT on Friday, May 14, 2021.** Specify "CTSG Coastal and Marine Graduate Economics Fellowship Proposal" in the subject line. *Proposals that are not received by the 4:30 p.m. EDT deadline will be returned without review.* Hard copy and faxed submissions, in addition to preliminary proposals that fail to comply with content, format and length requirements, will not be accepted. It is anticipated that funding decisions will be communicated to the applicants no later than June 25, 2021.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel that will include Connecticut Sea Grant staff and expertise in economics, on the basis of:

1. **Letter of intent (10%)**: Are the applicant's motivations and expectations, and anticipated benefits for CTSG clearly defined? Will the fellowship benefit the academic and career goals of the applicant?
2. **Technical merit (30%)**: Is the research need well justified, are the research goals/objectives clearly defined, are the proposed methods appropriate, is the proposed research feasible and can it be completed in one academic year?
3. **Relevance to the CTSG Strategic Plan (40%)**: Is the proposed research relevant to CTSG? Will it advance progress towards the goals, objectives, outcomes and performance measures of the CTSG Strategic Plan? How will the new information benefit CTSG and/or end-users?
4. **Qualifications of the candidate (10%)**: Are the applicant's qualifications meritorious? Are their qualifications and professional experience aligned with the proposed project? Is the project likely to succeed based on the experience and skills of the candidate?
5. **Qualifications of the candidate's advisor (10%)**: Are the mentor's qualifications and professional experience aligned with the proposed project? Is the mentorship plan likely to result in significant professional development? Is the project likely to succeed based on the experience of the mentor?

Selection Criteria

1. Preference will be given to applications for which the host department or other academic funding source have or will couple the fellowship or equivalent with a partial or full assistantship that covers the fellow's graduate tuition and benefits.

Questions?

Contact Syma Ebbin, CTSG Research Coordinator: syma.ebbin@uconn.edu or during the pandemic, by phone at 860 445-0113.