

## **Connecticut Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Economics Graduate Fellowship Program**

Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG) has initiated a **Coastal and Marine Economics Graduate Fellowship Program** to enable one or more selected graduate students 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) promote a real-world professional development opportunity aimed at enhancing the career goals of the fellow, (2) enhance economic alignment to the coastal and marine goals of the CTSG 2024-27 Strategic Plan through their individual project, and (3) learn about CTSG and engage staff on economic aspects of existing and emerging program needs.

### **Eligibility**

The 2023-24 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 2023 and spring 2024 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 or more CTSG Graduate Economics Fellowships will be awarded for the 2023-24 academic year. The award will consist of a service-free fellowship providing a \$20,000 annual stipend. 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/ecosystem 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 alignment with CTSG priorities, 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 2024-27 Strategic Plan ([https://seagrant.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1985/2022/12/CTSG.Strategic.Plan\\_.2024-27.final\\_.pdf](https://seagrant.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1985/2022/12/CTSG.Strategic.Plan_.2024-27.final_.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 successful fellows to complete the fellowship during the summer. 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 2024-27 Strategic Plan (cite specific goals and objectives that your work addresses)
- E. Timeline to completion

### *3. A letter of endorsement from the academic advisor*

Successful fellows 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](mailto:SeagrantResearch@uconn.edu) for receipt no later than 4:30 p.m. EDT on Friday, May 5, 2023.** 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 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 30, 2023.

## **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 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 align with the goals, objectives and performance measures of the CTSG Strategic Plan?
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 with a partial or full assistantship that covers the fellow's graduate tuition and benefits.

### **Tax Implications**

The Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Graduate Economics Fellowship is considered a fellowship for income tax purposes. The recipients may have an obligation to self-report the fellowship on your income tax return. Consistent with IRS guidelines, the University does not withhold income taxes from the award, or report the fellowship award to the IRS, except in limited circumstances involving nonresident aliens.

### **Questions?**

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