

## Michigan Sea Grant 2017 Request for Proposals: Fellowship Excerpt

Michigan Sea Grant College Program (MISG) is inviting proposals for innovative research projects and graduate research fellowships for the 2018-2020 funding period that begins on February 1, 2018. MISG will support three types of research during this funding cycle:  
(Click title to see specific details of each RFP)

- I. **Integrated Assessment (IA) Research Projects**— Research that uses Integrated Assessment methods to address important social and ecological issues affecting the Great Lakes, up to \$75,000 per year.
- II. **Core Research Projects**— Basic core research on issues currently affecting the Great Lakes ecosystem, up to \$100,000 per year.
- III. **[Michigan Sea Grant Graduate Student Research Fellowships](#)** — Graduate student (M.S. or Ph.D.) research fellowships for one or two years, up to \$50,000 total per fellowship.

All Sea Grant research project funds are awarded via a highly competitive process involving external peer reviews and the recommendations of external advisory panels.

### Deadlines:

- **IA and Core Research pre-proposals are due by 5 p.m. (EST) Friday, March 3, 2017.**
  - Investigators encouraged to submit a full proposal for IA projects or core research projects will be notified no later than April 7, 2017.
- **Questions about the research RFP pre-proposals are due by 5 p.m. (EST) Jan. 27, 2017. Questions about the Graduate Research Fellowships and the full proposals are due May 5, 2017.**
  - Responses will be posted by Feb. 6, and May 8, respectively.
- **Full research proposals (encouraged or not) are due by 5 p.m. (EST) May 26, 2017.**
  - Guidelines for full proposals will be posted on the [Funding Information](#) webpage on April 7, 2017.
- **Graduate Research Fellowship proposals are due by 5 p.m. (EST) May 26, 2017.**
- **Notification of final proposal funding decisions occurs in early Sept. 2017.**
- **Funding for new projects begins Feb. 1, 2018, pending federal appropriations.**

## General Information for All Proposals

### Eligibility

Qualified researchers at accredited Michigan universities are eligible to be Principal Investigators on MISG-funded projects. However, project team members are not limited to university researchers. PIs are not required to submit a pre-proposal in order to be eligible to submit a full proposal. Graduate fellowships will support a graduate student enrolled at an accredited Michigan university with support of a faculty member from that institution.

### **Non-federal Match**

All proposals require a 50 percent non-federal match. Principal Investigators are not required to document the source of the project match until submitting a full proposal. Those proposals that identify additional project support committing specific resources to the project (e.g., funding) will be more competitive. Fellowship match may be identified through the fellow's home institution with assistance of the advising faculty, or by match from cooperating agencies involved in the project.

### **Questions**

Questions related to integrated assessment and core research pre-proposals for this RFP, whether technical or content related, should be submitted to the Michigan Sea Grant Research Program ([MSG-RFPinfo@umich.edu](mailto:MSG-RFPinfo@umich.edu)) by 5 p.m. (EST) Jan. 27, 2017. Responses will be posted on the Michigan Sea Grant RFP webpage ([www.miseagrant.umich.edu/research/funding-information](http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/research/funding-information)) by Feb. 6, 2017. Questions related to the Graduate Fellowship and full proposal portions of the RFP should be submitted to the Michigan Sea Grant Research Program ([MSG-RFPinfo@umich.edu](mailto:MSG-RFPinfo@umich.edu)) by 5 p.m. (EST) May 5, 2017. Responses will be posted on the Michigan Sea Grant RFP webpage by May 8, 2017.

## **III. Graduate Student Research Fellowship RFP**

Michigan Sea Grant is offering one-or two-year fellowships from 2018-2020 for graduate students enrolled full-time at Michigan universities who are interested in research relevant to current Great Lakes ecological, habitat, or fisheries management issues. This fellowship will provide support for a student's research up to \$50,000 total per fellowship that could include tuition, stipend, travel, and research expenses.

Research fellows will work with an agency sponsor and faculty member at an accredited institution in Michigan to conduct a research project that supports existing Great Lakes agency research (see below). Applicants submit a brief proposal for their research as part of the selection process and are expected to have letters of support from agency and faculty sponsors. Interactions with agency and MISG professionals are expected to enhance academic and professional development opportunities.

### **About the Fellowship**

- Supports exceptional graduate students (M.S. or Ph.D.) engaged in research relevant to the Great Lakes, ongoing agency research, and to the [Michigan Sea Grant Strategic Plan](#).
- Fellows will work with an agency mentor to ensure results are useful and contribute to ongoing Great Lakes research.
- Agencies include federal, state, and tribal agencies, NGOs, and local governments that conduct research on Great Lakes coastal issues. This could include natural or social science research.
- Fellowship funding will be available in February 2018, but the fellowship can begin in either 2018 or 2019, as appropriate, concluding by January 31, 2020.
- Support: Up to \$50,000 total for students, including tuition, stipend, and benefits.
  - Requires a 50% non-federal match (e.g., faculty salary).
  - A budget is required; see below.

### **Eligibility**

- Students must be enrolled in or admitted to a full-time graduate or professional degree program at an accredited Michigan academic institution.
- Students may be working toward a degree in any discipline related to Great Lakes coastal or ecosystem issues.

## Application Submission Information

**Proposals are due to Michigan Sea Grant by 5 p.m. (EST) May 26, 2017.** Proposals not received by the deadline will not be considered. Applicants must submit their proposals as PDFs through [Michigan Sea Grant's RFP webpage](#). Questions about the Graduate Research Fellowships are due by 5 p.m. (EST) April 7, 2017; responses will be posted by April 17, 2017.

### Online Submission Process:

- Please allow sufficient time for all application materials to be received before the deadline. Late applications will not be accepted. We suggest that fellowship applicants access the Fellowship Application Submission Form to complete Parts 1 and 2 at least two weeks before the deadline. This step will initiate a system-generated request for recommendation letters and allow enough time for those letters to be received by the deadline.
- After completing Part 2 of the online application form, the academic advisor and agency sponsor will receive a system-generated request for the letter of recommendation with instructions on how to log in and upload the letter as a PDF.
- After completing Parts 1 and 2 of the online application (be sure to click save), applicants will be emailed a Fellowship Code that is required for logging in to complete the online submission.
- Complete [Budget Form 90-4](#) (XLS) to describe the proposed budget. Upload this as part of the online application.

## Proposal Requirements: Research Fellowship

- **Budget:** The budget should outline proposed expenses (e.g., tuition, stipend, research expenses, travel, supplies, etc.) up to \$50,000 total and a timeline for up to 2 years. The budget should also indicate the source and allocation of the 50% non-federal match (e.g., \$25,000 non-federal match for a \$50,000 funding request from Sea Grant).
  - Use [Budget Form 90-4](#) (XLS) to develop the proposed budget.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Two pages maximum and must include contact information for the graduate student applicant and primary advisor(s).
- **Research project narrative:** 1-2 pages.
- **Career goal statement:** 1 page maximum.
- **Undergraduate and graduate transcripts:** Unofficial copies are acceptable.
- **Letters of recommendation:** One from primary academic advisor and one from an agency sponsor.

## Proposal Evaluation: Research Fellowships

Selection criteria include academic ability, research proposal integration with agency research, the research and career goals of the student and relevancy of academic background, communication skills, and support from faculty and agency advisors. Applications that do not meet the requirements may be rejected without review.

All qualified applicants for the Graduate Research Fellowships will be: 1) reviewed by two external reviewers: one from a Great Lakes agency (state or federal), and one from academia; and 2) interviewed by the MISG Management Team and two external reviewers in mid-to-late summer 2017. Notification of funding decisions will occur in September 2017, and fellowship research will be conducted within the 2-year period from February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2020.