



**Michigan Sea Grant
Graduate Research Fellowship
Proposal Guidelines (2019)**

Michigan Sea Grant is offering one-or two-year fellowships from 2020-2022 for graduate students enrolled full-time at Michigan universities and colleges who are interested in research relevant to the Great Lakes. The fellowship supports exceptional graduate students (Masters or Ph.D.) engaged in research relevant to the Great Lakes, ongoing agency research, and to the [Michigan Sea Grant Strategic Plan](#). 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. The fellowship requires a 50% non-federal match (e.g. faculty salary). It will be available in February 2020, but the fellowship can begin in either 2020 or 2021, as appropriate, concluding by January 31, 2022.

Research fellows will work with an agency sponsor to ensure results are useful and contribute to ongoing Great Lakes research and with faculty member at an accredited institution in Michigan. Agencies could include federal, state, and tribal agencies, NGOs, and local governments that conduct research on Great Lakes coastal issues and could include natural or social science research. 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.

Proposal Requirements: Graduate Research Fellowship

- **Research project narrative:** 1-2 pages.
- **Career goal statement:** 1 page maximum.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Two pages maximum and must include contact information for the graduate student applicant and primary advisor(s).
- **Letters of recommendation:** One from primary academic advisor and one from an agency sponsor.
- **Undergraduate and graduate transcripts:** Unofficial copies are acceptable.
- **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). Please use [Budget Form 90-4](#) (XLS) to develop the proposed budget.

Online Application Submission Information

- 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 Evaluation: Research Fellowships

Selection criteria include academic ability, research proposal integration with agency research, the research and career goals of the student, 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 2019. Notification of funding decisions will occur in September 2019, and fellowship research will be conducted within the 2-year period from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022

Additional questions about these proposal guidelines can be submitted by May 3, 2019 to the Michigan Sea Grant Research Program by emailing MSG-RFPinfo@umich.edu. Answers will be publicly available at the Michigan Sea Grant research webpage by May 8, 2019.

About the Michigan Sea Grant Research Program

Michigan Sea Grant supported research studies an array of issues affecting the Great Lakes and Michigan's coastal areas, including Integrated Assessments and basic research. The goals are to develop information, create tools and build partnerships that will improve decision making for particularly challenging coastal issues in the state and to fulfill critical research needs for the Great Lakes and coastal systems. See:

www.michiganseagrant.org/research

About Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan Sea Grant helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through research, education and outreach. See: michiganseagrant.org