

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I need to submit my letter of endorsement before the application deadline?**
  - By endorsement letter, I assume you are referring to the signed letter of recommendation from the Michigan Sea Grant Director. That is the only part of the application package that does not need to be submitted by the deadline (which can be found at <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/student-opportunities/knauss/>). After we review your application and see whether or not you meet the baseline qualifications, we would invite you into our office for an interview. After the interview, we determine whether or not we will endorse your application to the National Sea Grant Office. If we decide to endorse, we will then complete that letter on your behalf. Please keep in mind that while the endorsement from MISG is not required by the deadline, the two other letters of recommendation from your professor(s) and/or faculty members are required to be submitted by that date.
- **How specific should the plans be? I am about to graduate soon and am looking for employment now, so there is a lot of uncertainty there.**
  - You would likely want to outline when your graduation is and what your degree will be. If you are involved in a capstone/final project or are taking classes this semester, you can also briefly mention/describe those. You can absolutely detail whether you are looking for additional fellowship or career opportunities, and it might be beneficial to provide some information on what kind of field of work you are looking into, what sector, etc. This should be a relatively brief plan, and typically candidates submit a plan that is about a half page.
- **For the transcripts, do I just need my grad school transcripts? Or also from undergrad?**
  - The National Sea Grant Office requires official copies of both undergraduate and graduate transcripts. If electronic delivery of transcripts is available, you can send them to [msgfellowships@umich.edu](mailto:msgfellowships@umich.edu). Otherwise, please mail transcripts to the MISG office (Michigan Sea Grant, 520 E. Liberty St., Suite 310, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2210).
- **I am a resident of Michigan but I am completing my degree at a university in another state. Can I apply for the Knauss program through Michigan Sea Grant?**
  - Per federal guidance, application submission is through an application to the Sea Grant program in the state in which the student is earning their degree. If there is no Sea Grant program, a Sea Grant program will be assigned. As a result, you should apply to the Sea Grant program that is in the state where you are earning your degree. If there is no Sea Grant program in that state, you must contact the NSGO Fellowships Manager to receive a written referral to apply through an eligible Sea Grant program (email: [oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov))
- **I am a graduate student focused on plant biology, however I am very interested in coastal resources, specifically the Great Lakes. Can I still apply for the Knauss Fellowship?**
  - Yes, if you are a student enrolled in a graduate program that has an interest in ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and the policy decisions affecting those resources you may apply.

- **SPECIFIC TO 2022 FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS:** Firstly, due to COVID-19 I am currently based out of my home in Rhode Island, despite still being a student at Michigan State. I would assume this would not affect which state Sea Grant I apply through, but can you confirm this? Secondly, also due to COVID-19 and the timing of intended graduation, there is an awkward gap of 8 months between then and the start of the fellowship. While I intend to pursue relevant work for that period of time, I probably cannot start anything very serious. I was curious how strongly my plans for this period are weighted in my overall application?
  - Based on your questions, 1) since you are a MSU graduate student, of course, you are eligible to submit to this Knauss Fellowship opportunity to Michigan Sea Grant, even though you are based in Rhode Island, 2) within the six sub-elements required submission by student, you must submit a 2021 plan which includes a listing of classes and/or plans for spring 2021, summer 2021, and fall 2021. Example, if you are involved in a capstone/final project or are taking classes this semester, you can also briefly mention/describe those. You can absolutely detail where you are looking for additional fellowship or career opportunities, and it might be beneficial to provide some information on what kind of field of work you are looking into, what sector, etc. This should be a relatively brief plan, and typically candidates submit a plan that is about a half page or one page max, and lastly 3) the overall evaluation criteria is based on the statement of career goals, cv/career goal statement and future year activities, academic record, and letter of recommendations. We certainly will take into account special circumstances due to COVID.