



Marine and Coastal
Science Institute



Graduate Student Research Award Program FAQs 2020

Announcement

What: Funds are now available from the Humboldt Marine and Coastal Science Institute, HSU Sponsored Programs Foundation, and California Sea Grant to support graduate research projects.

Who: The program is available to graduate students enrolled at Humboldt State University to support marine- or coastal-related research. The student must be in good academic standing (GPA > 3.0) and work with an HSU faculty advisor.

When Can I Apply: Proposals are due by **5PM on March 9, 2020**. Upon submission we will review your proposal and make funding decisions within approximately 4 weeks.

How Much: up to \$1000 may be requested for supplies, software, fees etc. Joint applications are also limited to \$1000.

How to Apply: Read the FAQs below, fill out the application form, and follow the instructions for submission. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Direct questions to Dr. Brian Tissot: brian.tissot@humboldt.edu

Humboldt Marine and Coastal Science Institute

Graduate Student Research Award Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Humboldt Marine & Coastal Science Institute?

The Institute is a community of HSU students and faculty actively engaged in interdisciplinary research on marine and coastal systems in the northern California region. This research occurs at the interface of the sciences, policy, and economics, and supports partnerships with local, national, and international organizations. We serve as a forum for coordinated development, funding, and execution of marine and coastal science research, education, and outreach efforts on campus as well as a contact point for community members, such as individuals, non-profits, schools, and tribes, and for state and national agencies involved in marine science and policy work.

2. What is the source of the funding?

Funding is provided by the Humboldt Marine & Coastal Science Institute, HSU Sponsored Programs Foundation, and California Sea Grant.

3. What is the goal of this funding opportunity?

To support graduate students interested in marine-related careers and provide them with the opportunity to obtain the skills necessary to join a highly skilled, technologically advanced workforce in the marine sciences.

4. What are the eligibility requirements to apply for a grant?

Students must be enrolled at Humboldt State University and propose an activity on a marine-related subject. The students must be in good academic standing (GPA > 3.0) and work with an HSU faculty advisor. A letter of recommendation from the faculty advisor is not required but you are required to obtain your advisor's signature on the form prior to submission. Your advisor is the person working with you on the project and can be your formal advisor, a course instructor, or a supportive faculty member.

5. What does it take to be an HSU faculty advisor?

Faculty advisors can be instructors, research associates, post-docs or on tenure-track faculty at HSU.

6. When can I submit a proposal?

Applications must be received by 5PM, Mar. 9, 2020. Late proposals will not be accepted.

7. What types of projects are supported by this opportunity?

The scope of topics that can be supported include:

- *The open and coastal ocean;*
- *Coastal zones (bays, estuaries, beaches);*

- Coastal watersheds to the extent that the organism, material or process ultimately articulates with the coast (e.g., anadromous fish, surface and groundwater flow and water quality, land use, etc.). Make the connection clear in your proposal.

8. What budget items are supported by this opportunity?

Graduate students may request up to \$1000. Examples of research-related expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Research supplies or materials;
- Travel to field site to collect samples or gather interviews or to an off campus facility to analyze samples (NOT the marine lab);
- Rentals fees for boats, SCUBA or other specialized equipment;
- Sample analysis costs;
- Purchase of specialized software or equipment to analyze samples or data, including socioeconomic data.

PLEASE NOTE THESE IMPORTANT POINTS:

- Funds requested for travel are a low priority and must be well justified to be considered.
- We do not support travel to meetings or workshops or requests for wages or tuition.
- We cannot reimburse students for past expenses; all purchases must be approved through marine lab staff
- Any non-expendable equipment becomes the property of the marine lab and must be returned when the project is completed.

9. When do funds have to be used?

Funds can be used to support activities occurring until Aug. 31, 2020. The funds must be spent or encumbered by that date.

10. What should I write for the project description?

The project description should describe the research or activity you propose to conduct in a clear and concise statement and address how the project will help you achieve your career goals. The description should describe the context for the activity, the hypotheses to be tested (if any), and the methodology to be used in the study. Projects can involve more than one student. Faculty input is strongly encouraged but the description should be written by the student.

11. How will projects be evaluated?

Proposal will be ranked on the importance of the research, the likelihood of project completion, the impact on student success, and the need for support. Those who have not received prior funding, or funding from other sources (such as COAST), receive higher priority.