



**NC Coastal Reserve – NC Sea Grant College Program
2018 NC Coastal Research Fellowship Request for Proposals**

Purpose The North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (Coastal Reserve) and North Carolina Sea Grant are accepting applications for the 2018 North Carolina Coastal Research Fellowship. The fellowship provides North Carolina-based graduate students with an opportunity to conduct research within one or more of the 10 sites that constitute the Coastal Reserve. Using the reserve sites as a research platform, fellows must conduct hypothesis-based projects that address coastal management issues in one or more of the following broad focus areas (in no order of importance):

- 1. Social perception of the value of coastal ecosystems and protected areas and/or their vulnerability to coastal hazards.**
- 2. Effects of air and water quality on coastal habitats and associated flora and fauna.**
- 3. Use of remote-sensing technology (satellites, aircraft, drones, underwater sensors, etc.) to examine coastal processes.**
- 4. Impact of invasive species on coastal ecosystems and human communities.**
- 5. Evaluation of habitat restoration practices and/or shoreline stabilization approaches.**
- 6. Interaction between ecosystem services and changing environmental conditions.**

The Coastal Reserve is a program of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management in the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (www.nccoastalreserve.net). North Carolina Sea Grant is a multi-campus program within the University of North Carolina system and is part of the national Sea Grant Network (www.ncseagrant.org).

Fellowship Amount \$10,000/fellowship

Number of Fellowships One fellowship is anticipated for 2018, subject to the availability of federal funds and the quality of the received applications.

Duration January 8, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Eligibility Only graduate students in good academic standing, attending an accredited North Carolina university or college are eligible to apply. First-year graduate students that have not yet started coursework are not eligible to apply.



Undergraduate students may not apply for funding, but research projects that include undergraduate participation are encouraged. Research projects must be conducted within the boundaries of at least one of the 10 sites that make up the Coastal Reserve: Currituck Banks, Kitty Hawk Woods, Buxton Woods, Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge, Rachel Carson, Permuda Island, Masonboro Island, Bald Head Woods, Zeke's Island and Bird Island.

Application

To apply, candidates must send a four-page (maximum) proposal describing the research project. The proposal should be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Proposals must contain the following sections:

1. **Title**, including student and major professor contact information.
2. **Description** of the project including rationale, relevance of the project to the coastal management focal area(s) listed above, and **hypothesis** being tested.
3. **Materials and Methods**.
4. Clearly defined **Tasks** and a **Timeline** to complete the tasks.
5. Declaration of **Other Sponsored Support to be Received** for the overall project.
6. A description of your **Outreach/Dissemination Plan**. How do you plan to share the results of this work to a broad and diverse set of stakeholders?
7. A detailed **Budget**. Funds may be used for any purpose related to the project, including stipends, undergraduate assistants and tuition. University overhead charges are not permitted. Match is not required. Support for the student's major professor is not allowed.

The proposal can contain a **Literature Cited** section if needed, which is NOT included in the four-page limit.

Applicants also should include a **current CV, their professor's CV**, as well as a **letter of support** from her/his major professor. Up to two additional letters of support from end-users, and other appropriate parties may be included if they enhance the application.

Data Management Plan: In addition to the above application, to comply with NOAA's data and publication sharing directive for grants and contracts, version 3.0 (<https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DSP.php>), each applicant must develop and submit with their application a data management plan (DMP). The DMP does not count toward your page limit above. Please review the guidance document above and **Attachment A** to assist you in preparing your plan. Plans will be included as part of the proposal evaluation process. Plans should be no more than 2 pages and should include: descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in



making such data accessible. If your project is not expected to develop any environmental data, then your DMP may simply include the declaration: “This proposal is not expected to generate environmental data. Therefore, a Data Management Plan is not required.”

- Deadline** Application materials must be received **by 5 p.m. Wednesday, November 29, 2017**. Applications should be sent via email as a Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF document to Coastal Reserve Research Coordinator, Dr. Brandon Puckett (brandon.puckett@ncdenr.gov). Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.
- Review Process** The review panel will be co-chaired by Dr. Brandon Puckett of the Coastal Reserve and Dr. John Fear of Sea Grant. Additional participants may include other Coastal Reserve, Sea Grant and N.C. Division of Coastal Management staff. Proposals will be ranked based on their relevance to the identified focus areas (see list above), quality of the proposed science, and adherence to the instructions provided in this request for proposals.
- Award Funding** The successful applicant will be notified by December 22, 2017. A research permit must be obtained from the Coastal Reserve before research can begin. It is incumbent on the applicant to obtain all additional state and federal permits required for conducting the research. Funding will be channeled through the fellow’s major professor, who must agree to serve as principal investigator on the project.
- Products** Within 60 days of fellowship completion, the fellow is required to submit a final report to Drs. Puckett and Fear. The fellow must also agree to translate the findings into materials suitable for a general audience, such as a blog post, magazine article or K-12 student curriculum. The fellow is highly encouraged to contact Katie Mosher from Sea Grant (kmosher@ncsu.edu) and Michelle Brodeur from the Coastal Reserve (Michelle.Brodeur@ncdenr.gov) to assist with this process. The fellow’s major professor must agree to submit progress reports, as requested, to Sea Grant via its online reporting system.
- Contact Information** **Brandon Puckett**, North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve, N.C. Division of Coastal Management (brandon.puckett@ncdenr.gov).
John Fear, North Carolina Sea Grant (jmfear@ncsu.edu).