



APNEP – NC Sea Grant 2019 Graduate Fellowship in Estuarine Research

Purpose

The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP) and North Carolina Sea Grant (Sea Grant) are accepting applications for the 2019 Graduate Fellowship in Estuarine Research. The fellowship provides funding for graduate students based in North Carolina with an opportunity to conduct applied research within the North Carolina portion of the APNEP management boundary. Fellows must conduct hypothesis-based research that addresses one or more of the following broad focus areas:

- **Ecology of, and ecosystem services provided by submerged aquatic vegetation**
- **Impacts of harmful algal blooms on ecosystems and human communities**
- **Nutrient/sediment mitigation capacity of riparian buffers and living shorelines**
- **Social science approaches to community resilience**

Proposed work should be relatable to both APNEP’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and Sea Grant’s Strategic Plan.

APNEP (www.apnep.org) is hosted by the N.C. Department of Environment Quality (deq.nc.gov) and is one of 28 National Estuary Programs supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/nep). North Carolina Sea Grant (ncseagrant.org) is an interinstitutional program within the University of North Carolina system and is part of the national Sea Grant Network (seagrant.noaa.gov) supported by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Fellowship Amount

\$10,000

Deadline

4 p.m. on Monday, **July 29, 2019**.

Number of Fellowships

One fellowship is anticipated for 2019, subject to sufficient funding and quality of the received applications.

Duration

The fellowship is for one year. Start date for fellowship activities is flexible but must be after Sept. 3, 2019. All work must be completed by Dec. 31, 2020.



Eligibility

Only graduate students in good academic standing, attending an accredited North Carolina university or college are eligible to apply. Undergraduate students may not apply for funding, but research projects that include undergraduate participation are encouraged. Proposed work must be conducted within the North Carolina portion of the APNEP management boundary.

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 focal area(s) listed above, APNEP and Sea Grant priorities, and the 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. Brief description of the **Outreach/Information Dissemination Plan**.
7. A detailed **Budget**. Funds may only be used for travel, tuition, student stipends, and salary (i.e. undergraduate assistants). Faculty advisor support is not allowed. University overhead charges are not permitted and match is not required. Budget cannot exceed \$10,000.

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

Each applicant also should include a two page **current curriculum vitae (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. These additional elements are not counted toward the four-page limit.

Data Management Plan: In addition to the above application, to comply with NOAA's data and publication sharing directive for grants and contacts, 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 two 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.”

- Submission** Application materials must be received **by 4 p.m. on Monday July 29, 2019**. Applications should be sent via email as a Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF document to Debra Lynch (debra_lynch@ncsu.edu). Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.
- Review Process** The review panel will be co-chaired by Dean Carpenter of APNEP and John Fear of Sea Grant, and may include other staff of the programs, and other topical experts. Criteria used to rank the proposal are: relevance to strategic priorities; quality of the proposed science; thoughtfulness of outreach strategies; and adherence to the instructions provided in this request for proposals.
- Award Funding** The successful applicant will be notified by Aug 26, 2019. Fellowship funds 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 Carpenter and Fear. The fellow also must agree to work with the Sea Grant communications team to translate the findings into an article for *Coastwatch* magazine and/or other products, and with APNEP on similar outreach activities. The fellow’s major professor must agree to submit progress reports as requested via the eSeaGrant online reporting system.
- Contact Information** **John Fear**, Ph.D., North Carolina Sea Grant (jmfear@ncsu.edu).
Dean Carpenter, D.Env., Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (dean.carpenter@apnep.org).