

Quick Reference Guide

Fiscal Year 2021 NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship in Population and Ecosystem Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics

NOAA-OAR-SG-2021-2006728

Please make sure to review the grant in its entirety for full details.

DATES:

- Eligible applicants must submit application materials by 5:00 PM local time on January 26, 2021 to eligible Sea Grant Programs.
- Selected applications from the eligible Sea Grant programs are to be received and validated by grants.gov by the deadline of 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on February 17, 2021. (Note that National Sea Grant Office staff will only be available to answer questions until 5:00 p.m. EDT.)

Please note: validation or rejection of an application by Grants.gov may take up to two business days after submission.

Eligible Sea Grant programs should consider this process in developing their submission timeline. For eligible Sea Grant program applications submitted through grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness.

Funding Opportunity Priorities:

For 2021, the disciplines of Population and Ecosystem Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics have been combined into a single opportunity, rather than two separate NOFOs. There will still be separate review panels for the two disciplines, and applicants must specify their project's focus area in their title page: either Population and Ecosystem Dynamics (PED), or Marine Resource Economics (MRE). See "Required Elements" in this quick guide for more information.

A new priority was added to the 2021 NOFO:

The National Sea Grant College program values diversity, equity, and inclusion in both our organization and the communities we serve. Through the NMFS-SG Fellowship we strive to provide an educational and employment opportunity for current and recent graduate students interested in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and the national policy decisions affecting those resources, regardless of race, color, religion, place of origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, disability or veteran status.

Funding Availability:

Subject to the availability of funding

- NMFS-SG Fellowships provide support for up to three years.
- Sea Grant anticipates funding at least four new Ph.D. fellowships to students who are interested in careers related to population and ecosystem dynamics of living marine resources and/or marine ecosystem dynamics, and at least one new Ph.D. fellowship to students who are interested in careers related to marine resource economics.
- Application packages may propose a maximum total of \$190,800 in funding (\$53,000 of federal funds + \$10,600 in applicant match = \$63,600 annually for a max of three years). See breakdown below:

Annual Request

Source	YR1 MAX	YR2 MAX	YR3 MAX	TOTAL MAX
Federal Funds	\$53,000	\$53,000	\$53,000	\$159,000
Applicant Match	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$63,600	\$63,600	\$63,600	\$190,800

NOTE:

- Allowable expenses could include, but is not limited to, project research, academic tuition, journal publication fees, academic- and fellowship-related travel, conference fees, online training, and workshops.
- Indirect costs are not allowable for either the Fellowship or for any costs associated with the Fellowship (15 CFR 917.11(e), "Guidelines for Sea Grant Fellowships").

Eligibility Information:

Eligible Applicants

Any student is eligible to submit to this opportunity if:

1. They are a United States citizen;
2. The graduate degree will be awarded through an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or U.S. Territories, and;
3. The student's research focuses on modeling and managing systems of living marine resources with an emphasis on quantitative methods for assessing marine ecosystems, AND/OR quantitative methods for assessing the economics of the conservation and management of living marine resources.

Cost Sharing/Matching Requirements

- Non-federal matching funds equal to at least 20 percent (20%) of the federal funding request must be provided unless a waiver justified by statute is granted, such as the waiver for insular areas granted by the Department of Commerce pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a.

- The cumulative match at the end of each year of the grant must not fall below 20 percent of the cumulative federal request up to that point.
 - For example, if \$53,000 in federal funds is requested (the maximum allowable annual request), matching funds must be at least \$10,600. In other words, applicants may not 'under' match in year one and 'over' match in year two.
- In-kind contributions directly supporting this application may count towards this matching requirement.
- See the Sea Grant General Application Guidance Document (<https://seagrants.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Guidance/SeaGrantGeneralApplicationGuide.pdf>) for more information.

Application and Submission:

Applications must be submitted to the Sea Grant program in the same state where the student is earning their degree. If there is no Sea Grant program, contact the National Office and a Sea Grant program will be assigned.

Application packages are available online and can be downloaded from www.grants.gov under opportunity NOAA-OAR-SG-2021-2006728. If an eligible applicant does not have access to the internet, please contact the Agency Contacts listed in Section VII for submission instructions.

This section provides an overview of these required proposal elements (and where to locate them). **This is an overview only! Please read the NOFO to understand the requirements in greater detail.**

Applications must adhere to the provisions under "Required Elements" below. Failure to adhere to these provisions will result in rejection of the application without further review.

Required Elements

1. Project Narrative

The application must include the following documents:

a. Project Proposal Narrative

The project proposal narrative must contain nine sub-elements. The following sub-elements are to be submitted by the student to the eligible Sea Grant program:

Document	Length	Notes
Title Page	1 Page MAX	
Project Proposal	5 Page MAX	
Curriculum Vitae	2 Page MAX	The student, faculty advisor, and NMFS mentor must each submit a CV
Transcripts		Clear, scanned copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts (official or unofficial)
Academic Training	1 Page MAX	Summary of academic training in quantitative methods
Education and Career Goals Statement	2 Page MAX	
Letter of Recommendation		A minimum of two signed letters of recommendations--one from the student's faculty advisor and one from the student's NMFS mentor.
Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire		The Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (OMB Control No. 0648-0538), guidance on how to complete the questionnaire, as well as examples of completed questionnaires, can be found here: https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrants/Implementation .
Data Management Plan	2 Page MAX	If your research will not generate any environmental data, an acceptable data sharing plan is the sentence, "This project will not generate any environmental data."

2. Budget Narrative

- a. Sea Grant 90-4 Form (OMB Control No. 0648-0362).
- b. Budget Justification

3. Overall Application

- a. SF-424 Form (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0004)
NOTE: The funding period is **August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2024**
- b. SF-424A Form (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0006)
- c. SF-424B Form (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0007)
- d. CD-511 (Grants.gov, US DOC)
- e. SF-LLL (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 0348-0046) [optional form, include if applicable]

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Points/Percent	Applicable Application Materials	Details
Academic Record and Statement of Career Goals	Quantitative Coursework (30) Statement of Education and Career Goals (10) Total: 40	undergraduate transcripts, curriculum vitae, quantitative coursework, statement of education and career goals	-The education and experience in the applicant's area of expertise are appropriate to the career stage; -The applicant displays strength in academic performance and competitive course grades; -Records of publications and/or presentations (academic or non-academic) are appropriate to the career stage, field, and institutional settings.
Quality of project and applicability to program priorities	30	project summary	-Evidence of important and innovative research and relate that research to relevant agency priorities
Recommendations and/or endorsements	20	letters of recommendation	-The expertise of the major professor and proposed NMFS mentor will be taken into account; -The endorsements and content of the letters are reviewed on the extent to which they demonstrate knowledge of the applicant and their abilities.
Additional Relevant Experience related to diversity of education; extra-curricular activities; honors and awards; work and life experience; and interpersonal, written and oral communication skills	10	curriculum vitae and career goal statement	The applicant has employment, volunteer, or extracurricular activities in academic, applied, research, administration, outreach, or policy positions; -The experience in the applicant's area of expertise is appropriate to the career stage; -The applicant has received honors, and awards, and other recognition; -The applicant has shown interest in working with diverse stakeholders; -The applicant's experience demonstrates a commitment to apply scientific expertise to serve society.

****Note:** In the NOFO under V.A.4 "Additional Relevant Experience" review criteria, the third sentence should read "The curriculum vitae and career goal statement will be reviewed on the extent to which..." Additional Relevant Experience review will not include review of future year activities.

Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. Applications will be individually ranked in accordance with the above criteria and assigned scores by an independent review panel. Separate panels will be conducted for the population and ecosystem dynamics and the marine resource economics competitions. Panel members will provide individual evaluations of applicants, and their ratings will be used to produce a rank order of the applications.

The proposals, supplemented with information from the Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire, will also be reviewed by the federal program officer to assess the environmental compliance of the proposed actions. The federal program officer, NEPA staff lead, or grants specialist may contact the program to discuss questions about the environmental effects, merit, or administrative correctness of the application, and may delay approval of the application, or impose conditions on the grant preventing funding or execution of certain activities, until all questions are satisfactorily answered.

The selecting official shall award in the rank order unless the application is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon any of the selection factors provided below. The selecting official shall make final recommendations for award to the grants officer who is authorized to obligate the funds and execute the award.

- Balance/distribution of funds:
 - across academic disciplines
 - by type of institution
 - geographically
- Availability of funding.
- Program-specific objectives.
- Degree in scientific area and type of degree sought.

Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates:

Subject to the availability of funds, the eligible Sea Grant Programs will be notified of the competitive selection results in June 2021 and awards are expected to start August 01, 2021.

Contact Information:

NMFS-SG Program Manager: Maddie Kennedy
NMFS-SG Competition Manager: Beth Diamond
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