

***If I am currently enrolled in a Masters Program but will graduate in Summer 2022 and plan to begin a PhD program in Fall 2022, am I eligible to receive the Massachusetts Graduate Research Fellowship?***

No. If you are enrolled in a Masters program at the time of application to the Massachusetts Sea Grant Graduate Research Fellowship (i.e. enrolled on October 1, 2021), with the exception of students enrolled in a Joint Bachelors/Masters program, you are not eligible to receive this Fellowship.

***If I am a US citizen but have an undergraduate degree from a non-US institution, am I eligible to receive this fellowship?***

Yes. All US Citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible to receive this fellowship, regardless of the undergraduate-degree granting institution.

***Do you have advice on how to prioritize what information gets included in the two-pages of the personal statement?***

This information is up to you. Please review the RFP for the information that we would like to see in your personal statement. Focus on the activities or things that impacted your career choices. Share with us who you are and why you want to enter your field of study. Help us to understand how you think this fellowship will help you to achieve your career goals.

***How many people will be receiving this fellowship?***

We anticipate awarding **two** fellowships. In addition to notifying the top finalists, we will also notify secondary and alternate awardees in early January as well.

***Should I already be accepted into a graduate program at this point?***

No, you do not need to be accepted into a graduate program at this time. If you have been accepted into a graduate program but have not yet enrolled, you may also apply for this fellowship.

***Should the research proposal focus on coastal research, or is marine research in general ok?***

The research proposal should focus on research that addresses goals or priorities in WHSG and/or MITSG's strategic plans. The priorities in our strategic plans are quite broad.

***Who will be reviewing the applications?***

We anticipate reviewers will have expertise across the four Sea Grant focus areas, and will likely include experts in natural and social sciences, coastal management, marine policy, education, or other fields.

***What if my proposal depends on additional funding or collaboration? Will my fellowship not be supported?***

No. If the work that you are proposing in this application package depends on additional funding or collaboration, that will not be part of the decision-making process on who is awarded this fellowship. However, we do expect you to be working with a faculty advisor who will be able to provide some additional resources for you.

***Can you elaborate on the non-federal 50% match in more detail?***

Sea Grant programs are required by statute to receive 50% matching for all federal support that we award. **You will not be required to provide this matching support directly.** This match will most likely be coming from the university or institution that you'll be attending. Your university commonly provides matching funds for many types of projects and funding sources and we anticipate your potential faculty advisor will help you to secure this matching support.

***Will the research proposals be reviewed as pure natural science proposals or is it OK to include social sciences in the Research Plan? Is there flexibility on how these proposals are organized?***

Yes, it is perfectly fine to incorporate interdisciplinary research into your research plan. There are no requirements on formatting for your research plan aside from font size, margins, and page limits, so please organize your Research Plan in the way that best allows you to highlight your research interests for reviewers.

***Where can I find the slides and email contact for if I have more questions?***

The information session slides can be found on WHSG's website (<https://seagrant.whoi.edu/fellowship-opportunities/grf/>). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out via email to [seagrant-research@whoi.edu](mailto:seagrant-research@whoi.edu).