

Massachusetts Sea Grant Graduate Research Fellowship

- Informational Webinar #1
- August 22, 2023



Webinar Details



- This informational webinar will be recorded for our note-taking purposes but not posted on the web
- The slides will be posted on our website, along with a summary of the audience questions and answers
- Please feel free to ask questions at any time. We ask that you ask your questions one of two ways:

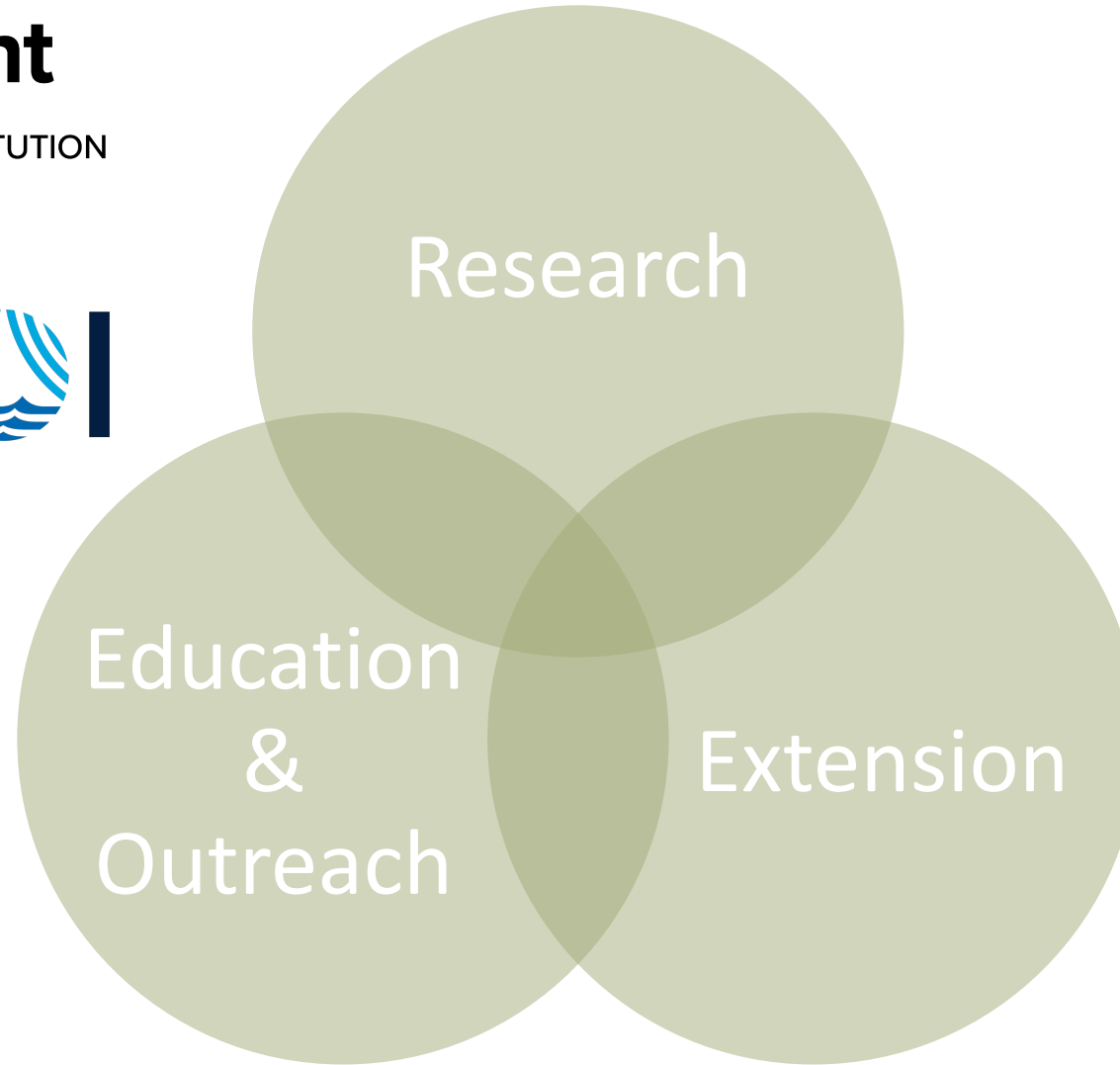


- Enter questions in the chat window
- Use the raise hand function in the participant window and unmute when called on



Poll Questions!

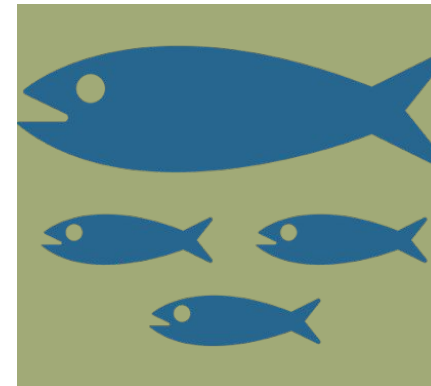
Sea Grant Overview



Sea Grant Focus Areas



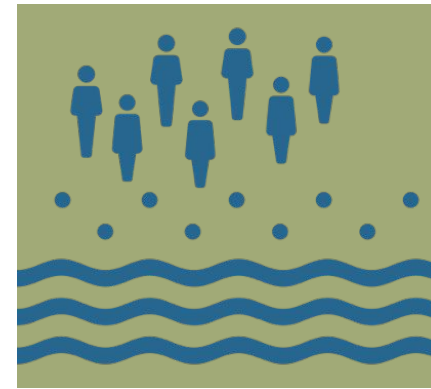
HEALTHY COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND
ECONOMIES



ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Massachusetts Sea Grant Graduate Research Fellowship

The purpose of this fellowship is:

- To bring **new** and **diverse** talent into the marine sciences in Massachusetts
- To support exceptional **prospective** graduate students who are **engaged in coastal and marine research**.
- To provide funding and support for students who are applying and intend to enroll in a graduate program in **Massachusetts** during **Fall 2024**.
- To support **cutting-edge research** and the **professional growth** of the Fellows.



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Expectations

- Engage in hypothesis-driven, coastal- or marine-related research in keeping with the 2024-2027 National Sea Grant Focus Areas
- Share your research results
- Work with WHOISG and MITSG Staff
- Find and collaborate with a Professional Development Mentor
- Attend WHOISG and MITSG events
- Fellows will also have professional development and research support



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Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include US citizens and Permanent Residents planning to attend a graduate program in Fall 2024 in Massachusetts that are either:
 - currently enrolled in an undergraduate or joint bachelor's/master's program
 - not currently enrolled in any graduate program
- International students **are also eligible** for this fellowship **IF**:
 - The applicant's undergraduate or previous graduate degree must be from an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or U.S. territories
 - WHOISG and MITSG are not responsible for helping the students obtain necessary visas.





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Eligibility

- Graduate students **currently enrolled** in a masters or PhD program or who are enrolling in **non-thesis-granting master's programs** are **not eligible** to receive this fellowship.
- An individual may **not** accept this fellowship if the individual accepts or is supported by a **federal** graduate fellowship that supports tuition and stipend.



Fellows must attend an accredited, thesis-granting **masters or doctoral** graduate program in **Fall 2024** in Massachusetts.







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Funding Availability and Eligible Costs

- We expect to award two (2), two-year Graduate Student Fellowships, with a maximum Sea Grant support of **\$40,000/year for stipend and tuition** costs and **\$2,000/year for professional development and research** costs for a total of \$84,000 for each Fellow over the two year period.
- Fellowships will require a **50% match of non-federal funds**.
- Eligible costs for the \$40,000/year in Sea Grant funding include student stipend; fringe benefits; tuition; enrollment, mandatory university and mandatory graduate program fees.
- Eligible costs for the \$2,000/year in Sea Grant funding include conference travel or attendance fees, trainings, and/or workshops, and research and supply costs



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Application Requirements

- Cover Page (1 page maximum) – you must use the template provided
- Personal and Career Goals Statement (2 pages maximum)
- CV/Resume (2 pages maximum)
- Research Plan (2 pages maximum)
- Undergraduate and Graduate (if applicable) Transcripts
- Two Letters of Recommendation - to be submitted separately via email to seagrant-research@whoi.edu

*Additional information will be removed and not evaluated

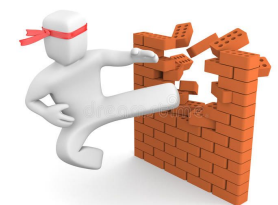


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Personal and Career Goals Statement

- Two pages maximum
- Your educational and professional goals and ambitions
- Highlight your past experiences and how they contribute toward your short and long-term career goals
- Speak to your leadership, communication ability, public outreach interests or experience
- Describe any barriers or challenges you have had to overcome



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Research Plan



- Summary of your research interests
- Demonstrate your ability to **develop a research proposal** and showcase:
 - Your critical thinking skills.
 - Development of hypothesis-driven research questions.
 - Methods to address those research questions.
 - Potential broader societal impacts of your work.
 - Describe how your research addresses the National Sea Grant Focus Areas
 - How you would improve DEIJA in the marine sciences.

Note: You will not be held to this specific proposed work, but your ultimate graduate studies are Massachusetts-based and must address the National Sea Grant Focus

Areas.

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Application Timing and Key Dates



- **Wednesday, October 4, 2023 no later than 4:30pm Eastern:**

Applications are due to seagrant-research@whoi.edu

- **January, 2024:**

Applicants will be notified of Fellowship review decisions.

- **January - March 16, 2024:**

Awardees must accept or decline Fellowship. Awardees will be required to **submit additional paperwork** to WHOISG/MITSG upon acceptance.

- **September 1, 2024:**

- Fellowship begins



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Additional Paperwork (after notification)

- **Acceptance Letter from the Graduate Program** indicating that you have been offered admission to that program.
- **Cost Share Authorization** indicating that your institution has approved the cost sharing for your fellowship budget.
- **Faculty Advisor Letter of Commitment** (one page maximum) indicating that your prospective faculty advisor is committed to sponsoring you.
- **Budget and Budget Justification** documenting your fellowship budget request.
- WHOISG and MITSG will file a **Data Management Plan and NEPA Questionnaire** on your behalf but may need additional information from you once you begin your research.

If you need help or additional time to prepare these documents, please reach out via seagrant-research@whoi.edu as early as possible.



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Application Review

- Relevancy to the National Sea Grant Focus Areas (10%)
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility (10%)
- Past Academic and Professional Performance (40%)
- Academic and Career Potential (40%)



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Tips for Preparing a Strong Application

- **Reach out to prospective faculty advisor(s)!** We hope that your prospective faculty advisor(s) will help you as you prepare your application materials.
- **Showcase your past experiences that are relevant to your career goals.** These experiences do not have to be research-oriented, or even in your proposed field of study.
- **Clearly articulate your proposed research.** Two pages is not a lot of space, so choose your words carefully!
- **Reach out to recommendation letter writers EARLY.** Be sure that they know the deadline and how to submit their letters. Share with them the key points to include in their letters.



Tips for Preparing a Strong Application

- **Carefully review the Fellowship RFP, and adhere to all application requirements.** You can send us your application ahead of time and we are happy review for completeness.
- Pay special attention to page limits, spelling, grammar, and application instructions.
- **Review the evaluation criteria** - ensure your application clearly addresses the details highlighted as this is what the review panel will use to evaluate your applications.
- **Review the links provided to the National Sea Grant Focus Areas.** Prepare your Research Plan with the Sea Grant goals in mind, and ensure that all of your application materials address issues raised in the RFP.



Tips for Preparing a Strong Application

Submit your application before the deadline if possible! Email servers can sometimes be slow and we may not receive your application right when you send it. We will acknowledge receipt of your application via email.

WHOISG and MITSG will be holding office hours. **Work on your application ahead of time and come to us with your questions!**

- [Tuesday, September 12, 2023 from 2:00pm-4:00pm Eastern Time.](#)
- [Monday, September 18, 2023 from 9:00am-11:00am Eastern Time.](#)
- [Thursday, September 28, 2023 from 12:00pm-2:00pm Eastern Time.](#)

