

Ocean STEAM Powered Women Fellowship

PROGRAM DATES: August 10 - 16

Applications are **due on March 14th, 2025 by 11:59 pm.**

[WHOI Sea Grant \(WHOI SG\)](#) and the [Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution \(WHOI\)](#) are excited to collaborate with [Sea Education Association](#) on the Ocean STEAM Powered Women (O-STEAM) Fellowship, a competitive, week-long, fully funded, residential fellowship in [Woods Hole](#) for a cohort of young women from Massachusetts currently in their sophomore or junior year of high school.

Fellows are housed on the beautiful [Sea Education Association](#) campus during this week-long, summer fellowship, with easy access to the nearby WHOI facilities. During their week, fellows work with WHOI Sea Grant Education Specialist Grace Simpkins, WHOI researchers, and Program Assistants to dive deep into ocean research while also meeting other female Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) professionals and learning from their collective expertise. The immersive experience seeks to expose the participants to a wide range of marine careers, involve them in research, and build a supportive network. Activities during the week include building their own underwater microphone (or hydrophone), testing their hydrophone by towing it while kayaking (weather dependent), sound analysis of dolphin vocalizations, participating in shipboard oceanographic techniques, water quality testing, constructing and deploying an ocean drifter, going on a whale watch expedition to observe marine mammals (weather dependent), and more. Fellows will also learn from communications specialists about how to share their research and experiences with their community.

Expanding Access to Ocean Science. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and dynamic learning environment that brings together a variety of perspectives and experiences. O-STEAM was created to expand access to ocean sciences by encouraging applicants who would not otherwise have had access to research and fieldwork opportunities. Our selection process is based on merit, interest, and potential, ensuring that all applicants have an equal opportunity to participate.

You must be a resident of Massachusetts and attend a school in Massachusetts. You must be starting your high school junior or senior year in fall of 2025.

This is a field experience and will involve working both inside and outside with light to moderate activity levels. We will work full days but have ample free time after dinner. You must be willing to fully commit to the learning experience, meeting new people, making connections, and giving the week your all.

If you need application assistance, please reach out to Grace Simpkins, gsimpkins@whoi.edu, and we will assign you a WHOI student to help you.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Publicity

2. How did you find out about the O-STEAM program? *

Mark only one oval.

- E-mail
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Facebook
- A mentor
- An alumni of the program
- School guidance counselor
- Local Library
- Teacher
- After school activity
- Other:

Personal Information

3. First name *

4. Last name *

5. Date of Birth *

6. Personal Email Address *

7. School Email Address *

8. Preferred Email *

Mark only one oval.

Personal

School

9. Phone Number *

10. Address *

11. City *

12. State (You must be a resident of Massachusetts) *

13. Zip Code *

14. Race/Ethnicity * *(you may choose more than one)*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- Middle Eastern
- Multiracial
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White/European
- Choose not to disclose

School Information

15. Current Grade *

Mark only one oval.

Freshman (9th)

Sophomore (10th)

Junior (11th)

Senior (12th)

16. Official School Name (No abbreviations; if homeschooled use "homeschool" for this section) *

17. School Street Address *

18. School City *

19. School State (You must attend school in Massachusetts) *

20. School Zip Code *

21. School Type *

Mark only one oval.

- Public
- Charter
- Private
- Homeschool
- Technical High School

Parent/Guardian and Household Details

22. Parent/Guardian First Name *

23. Parent/Guardian Last Name *

24. Parent/Guardian Relationship *

25. Parent/Guardian Email (please make sure this is correct and is not the same one you have listed for yourself) *

26. Parent/Guardian Phone *

27. Parent or Guardian's occupation? (Please list both if you reside with 2 parents or guardians) *

28. What is the highest level of education in your household? *

Mark only one oval.

- GED
- High School Diploma
- Associate's Degree
- Trade School
- Undergraduate Degree
- Master's Degree
- PhD
- Other: _____

Essay Questions

Please limit each response to 300 words or less. Anything over 300 words will not be reviewed.

29. How would you change STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) fields to make them more inclusive and how will you help to contribute to an inclusive and supportive environment in the O-STEAM Fellowship and beyond? Please ground your answer in your personal experience. In your response, feel free to include race, gender, religion, ethnicity, economics, education, location, culture, or something not listed. *

(max of 300 words)

30. Help us get to know you. Please describe what extracurricular activities, experiences, or jobs (including childcare), you participate in and why. If applicable, please discuss how your activities have helped you build leadership and teamwork skills, maturity, and community involvement. *

(Max of 300 words)

31. If you have ever participated in a fellowship or STEAM expedition before, please check yes here and use the following question to provide details on when, where, length of program and what you did. *

**This fellowship is aimed at breaking down barriers to accessing this type of programming. Most of our O-STEAM fellows have had limited access to this type of opportunity in the past.

Check all that apply.

Yes

No

32. If yes to the last question, please give a brief description of the program and when you attended it.

33. How has STEAM and environmental studies been inaccessible to you whether that be in educational or personal realms? Please explain and use examples. (Max of 300 words) *

34. Why are you interested in attending the Fellowship? *
(max of 300 words)

Recommenders

You are required to have a recommendation from a NON relative for your application to be accepted. This recommendation can come from a teacher (preferably STEAM), coach, mentor, instructor of an extracurricular program, or group leader. Be sure to ask whether a recommender is available to write a recommendation before completing your application.

YOU are responsible for asking your recommender to send a letter (pdf please) to Grace Simpkins, gsimpkins@whoi.edu, by March 14th. Please check in with them to confirm that they sent in their letter. They will get a confirmation of receipt.

35. Recommender First Name *

36. Recommender Last Name *

37. Recommender Email *

38. Recommender Relationship (ex. Coach, Teacher, etc) *

Final Questions and Submission

39. Gender *

Mark only one oval.

Male

Female

Non Binary

Transgender

40. Not required: please use this space to elaborate on your identity and preferred gender.

41. Preferred Pronouns *

42. This is a field experience and will involve working both inside and outside with light to moderate activity levels. I understand that we will work full days but have ample free time after dinner. I am willing to fully commit to the learning experience, meeting new people, making connections, and giving the week my all. *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

43. Signature (by typing your full name here you are giving your digital signature) *

44. Date (please review your responses before hitting submit as you will not be able to go back) *

Example: January 7, 2019

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