

Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Master's Student Fellowship

NOAA-OAR-OAP-2022-2007070

**Due date for Letters of Intent (LOI):
4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on December 14, 2021**

**Due date for Full Proposals:
4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on March 11, 2022**

**Presented by:
Michael Acquafredda, Program Specialist III, NOAA OAP/UCAR**



Agenda

1. Fellowship Overview
2. Eligibility
3. LOI Requirements
4. Full Proposal Requirements
5. Evaluation Criteria
6. Q & A

Fellowship Overview

The NOAA Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) is supporting a competitive graduate fellowship that will support students conducting research, in pursuit of a Master's degree, related to ocean acidification (OA) in the Pacific Islands region to help fill a critical gap in capacity for regional OA research and monitoring.

The goals of this fellowship are to:

1. Support early-career scientists who will provide the Pacific Islands region with OA research and observation expertise
2. Provide Pacific Island countries and communities with additional data, information, and resources, which can be used to build greater resilience against OA and its impacts

Fellowship Overview

This funding call is part of a broader initiative involving multiple international institutions, to build capacity in monitoring and understanding OA and its impacts in the Pacific Islands



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



Global Ocean Acidification
Observing Network



Ocean Acidification
International
Coordination Centre
OA-ICC



Fellowship Overview

Proposed research must fill critical gaps in physical/chemical oceanographic, biological, and/or socioeconomic knowledge of OA and its impacts in the Pacific Islands region.

3-6 fellowship awards are available

Each award (\$20,000 - \$32,000 USD per year) is intended to fund costs associated with a 2-year Master's Degree program, including:

- Tuition
- Stipend
- Research budget
- Other fees and expenses

Fellowship Overview

In addition to the awarded funds, fellows will also receive:

- Access to a community of practice composed of universities, non-profits, and government organizations focused on capacity development in the Pacific Islands region (NOAA, TOF, GOA-ON, PITOA, SPC, USP, NIWA, U. Otago, IOC-UNESCO, IAEA, SPREP, KIOST, U. Hawaii)
- Access to a network of scientists conducting OA monitoring in the Pacific Islands, as well as around the globe
- Depending on the availability of resources, an invitation to a hands-on, in-person, training workshop at the new Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Regional Training Hub in Suva, Fiji (anticipated in 2023, Covid-19 permitting)

Fellowship Overview

Priorities - your application must address one or more of these

1. Connecting historic, current, and/or predicted future oceanographic conditions, including parameters related to ocean acidification, to species and ecosystem responses in the Pacific Islands region
2. Synthesizing disparate data sources to identify data needs and knowledge gaps about ocean acidification and its impacts in the Pacific Islands region
3. Increasing community awareness and understanding of ocean acidification and its impacts through engagement
4. Using existing and new regional carbonate chemistry datasets to conduct nation-, island-, or community-level vulnerability assessments in the Pacific Islands region
5. Using existing and new regional carbonate chemistry datasets to inform national or local management strategies that may be implemented in the Pacific Islands region
6. Building coastal resilience against ocean acidification and its impacts in Pacific Islands countries by testing and monitoring the effectiveness of community-based mitigation or adaptation strategies

Fellowship Overview

Priorities

The proposed activity must bolster scientific capacity for OA research in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.



Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include:
 - Individuals who are currently enrolled in a research-based Master's degree
 - Individuals who have applied to and intend to enroll in a research-based Master's degree
 - Applicant's Master's degree program should be in the field of
 - oceanography
 - marine science
 - environmental science
 - ocean engineering
 - resource management
 - coastal community social science
 - or a related field at a university or other institution of higher education

LOI Requirements

Email LOIs to the Program Manager
(Erica.H.Ombres@noaa.gov) by 4:59 pm Fiji
Time (UTC+12) on December 14, 2021

1. Cover page (maximum 1 page)

- a. Applicant's name, title, affiliation
 - b. "" contact information (address, email, phone)
 - c. "" country of origin
 - d. "" academic advisor (name, title, affiliation, and email)
 - e. Name and contact information for the Financial Office point-of-contact of the applicant's institution
 - f. Priority Number (i.e., #1-6)
 - g. Relevant Personal Background & Career Goals Statement
- 1/2 page
- 1/2 page

2. Research plan (maximum 1 page)

- a. Project Title
 - b. Project Description:
a brief discussion of the focal topic, project objectives, methodological approach, and expected results
 - c. Budget Justification:
total cost, annual breakdown of requested funding, and a brief budget justification that indicates how the requested funding will be used
- 2/3 page
- 1/3 page

LOI Requirements

Email LOIs to the Program Manager
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Time (UTC+12) on December 14, 2021

Review criteria

Program managers from NOAA will review each LOI using these evaluation criteria:

1. Is the applicant from a priority country, and will the research take place in a priority country or another nation in the Pacific Islands region?
2. Does the applicant have the necessary educational background and skills to accomplish the research plan?
3. How well does the research plan address one or more of the Program Priorities?
4. Does the proposed research plan contain clear objectives and sound methodological approaches, and is it likely to produce the expected results?

Full Proposal Requirements

Full proposal applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on March 11, 2022

- 1) Project Narrative
- 2) Budget Narrative
- 3) Other Required Forms

Full Proposal Requirements

Full proposal applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on March 11, 2022

1) Project Narrative

A. Project description

- Cover page (1 page maximum)
 - Applicant's name, title, affiliation
 - Applicant's contact information (address, email, phone)
 - Applicant's country of origin
 - Status of Master's Program enrollment (applied, accepted, or enrolled)
 - Applicant's academic advisor (name, title, affiliation, and email)
 - Priority Number (i.e., #1-6)
 - Budget overview - Total cost and annual breakdown of requested funding

Full Proposal Requirements

Full proposal applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on March 11, 2022

1) Project Narrative

A. Project description

- Cover page (1 page maximum)

- Research Plan (5 pages maximum)
 - Project Title
Project Abstract (250 words)
 - Background (1 ½ pages suggested)
 - Explain the specific problem(s) this project seeks to address, justify its importance, and describe how it aligns with the goals and priorities of this funding opportunity
 - Objectives
 - Methodology (1 ½ pages suggested)
 - Anticipated Outcomes and Deliverables
 - Outreach and Education Plan (1 page suggested)
 - Provide a strategy that is designed to communicate the research outcomes with appropriate audiences in the local community. This plan should also include details of how the proposed work will broaden the participation of underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Full Proposal Requirements

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1) Project Narrative

A. Project description

- Cover page (1 page maximum)
- Research Plan (5 pages maximum)
- Relevant Personal Background and Career Goals Statement (2 pages maximum)
 - This section should include a detailed discussion of the applicant's prior education, the applicant's abilities, and the ways this fellowship will support the applicant's career goals.
- Curriculum vitae (CV) for the applicant and the academic advisor (2 pages maximum per person)

Full Proposal Requirements

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1) Project Narrative

A. Project description

- Cover page (1 page maximum)
- Research Plan (5 pages maximum)
- Relevant Personal Background and Career Goals Statement (2 pages maximum)
- Curriculum vitae (CV) for the applicant and the academic advisor (2 pages maximum per person)

- Project Timeline (1 page suggested)
 - Provide a timeline for accomplishing the research plan, including approximate dates for reaching key milestones, deliverables, and achieving anticipated outcomes

- Works Cited, which includes all in-text citations
- Official copies of undergraduate and any postgraduate student transcripts
- Proof of application or acceptance into a Master's program
- One signed Letter of Support from the applicant's academic advisor
- Two signed Letters of Recommendation**

Page limits

No page limits

Full Proposal Requirements

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1) Project Narrative

A. Project description

- Cover page (1 page maximum)
- Research Plan (5 pages maximum)
- Relevant Personal Background and Career Goals Statement (2 pages maximum)
- Curriculum vitae (CV) for the applicant and the academic advisor (2 pages maximum per person)
- Project Timeline (1 page suggested, no limit)
- Works Cited, which includes all in-text citations (no limit)
- Official copies of undergraduate and any postgraduate student transcripts (no limit)
- Proof of application or acceptance into a Master's program (no limit)
- One signed Letter of Support from the applicant's academic advisor (no limit)
- Two signed Letters of Recommendation (no limit, sent directly to Erica.H.Ombres@noaa.gov)

B. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (standard form) (<https://www.nepa.noaa.gov/docs/NOAA-Grants-Questionnaire-final.pdf>)

C. Data Management Plan (2 pages maximum)

Full Proposal Requirements

Full proposal applications must be submitted to [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) by 4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on March 11, 2022

1) Project Narrative

- A. Project description (some page limits)
- B. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (standard form)
- C. Data Management Plan (2 pages maximum)

2) Budget Narrative

A. Budget Justification (no limit)

For each year of the project, a Budget Justification is required.

Each year's Budget Justification should explain the budget items in sufficient detail to enable review of the appropriateness of the funding requested.

3) Other Required Forms (all standard forms)

- A. SF-424 Form
- B. SF-424A Form
- C. SF-424B Assurances
- D. CD-511
- E. SF-LLL

Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Quality of the proposed project and its applicability to the program priorities (45 points)**
 - Assess intrinsic value and relevance to program goals and priorities (10 points)
 - Assesses how well the proposal bolsters OA research capacity in the Pacific Islands (10 points)
 - Assesses Research Plan and Data Management Plan (clear objectives? sound methodological approaches? a high likelihood of success?) (25 points)
- 2) Recommendations and/or endorsements of the applicant (15 points)**
 - Assesses advisor's letter of support and the two letters of recommendation
- 3) Academic record and statement of career goals of the student (10 points)**
 - Assesses applicant's career goal statement
 - Assesses applicant's experience, education, training, facilities, admin. support & advisor supervision
- 4) Additional relevant experience related to diversity of education; extracurricular activities; honors and awards; and interpersonal, written and oral communication skills (10 points)**
- 5) Outreach and education (10 points)**
 - Assesses Outreach and Education Plan: will applicant be able to effectively communicate their research to local communities
 - Assesses how well the overall proposal broadens participation of underrepresented groups in STEM
- 6) Project costs (10 points)**

Question & Answer Session

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Due date for Letters of Intent (LOI):

4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on December 14, 2021

Applicants submit LOI via email -

send to Program Manager, Erica Ombres at Erica.H.Ombres@noaa.gov

Due date for Full Proposals:

4:59 pm Fiji Time (UTC+12) on March 11, 2022

Applicant's institution submit all materials via grants.gov,

except letters of recommendation should be sent directly to Erica.H.Ombres@noaa.gov

Send additional questions to:

Erica Ombres at Erica.H.Ombres@noaa.gov

Michael Acquafredda at Michael.Acquafredda@noaa.gov

