

2019

COASTAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

2019 Coastal Management Fellowship

WHAT is it?

- A fellowship established to provide on-the-job education and training opportunities in coastal resource management and policy for postgraduate students.
- A two-year opportunity that offers a competitive salary, medical benefits, and relocation and travel expense reimbursement.
- A program that matches postgraduate students with state coastal resource agencies to work on coastal projects proposed by the state and selected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management.

WHO is eligible?

- Any student completing a master's or other advanced degree in natural resource management or environmental-related studies from an accredited U.S. university between January 1, 2018, and July 31, 2019.
- Students from a broad range of environmental programs are encouraged to apply.
- Application packages are due to your local Sea Grant director by January 18, 2019.

WHERE can you get information?

- Contact the Office's fellowship coordinator at ocm.fellowships@noaa.gov
- Visit the fellowship website at www.coast.noaa.gov/fellowship
- Contact your local Sea Grant director at www.seagrant.noaa.gov/about



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State Projects

Host Agency: Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
Location: Two Harbors, Minnesota
Project Goal: Provide data, tools and resources to area practitioners and landowners tackling Lake Superior erosion in Minnesota.

Host Agency: New Hampshire Coastal Program
Location: Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Project Goal: Advance alternative funding mechanisms to support on-the-ground adaptation and resilience in coastal New Hampshire communities.

Host Agency: New Jersey Coastal Management Program
Location: Trenton, New Jersey
Project Goal: Identify measures or frameworks for evaluating community resilience, develop a method for equitable community resilience planning, and suggest integration of these findings with state initiatives in New Jersey.

Host Agency: New York State Coastal Management Program
Location: Albany, New York
Project Goal: Develop a scenario planning tool (potentially utilizing VR or AR), that will support three goals: community and regional resilience planning, local waterfront revitalization planning, and improved federal consistency review.

Host Agency: Oregon Coastal Management Program
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project Goal: Improve the availability of public access information for planning efforts and to encourage public enjoyment of and appreciation of the Oregon coast.

Host Agency: Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
Location: Madison, Wisconsin
Project Goal: Apply geospatial technologies and resources developed by WCMP partners, NOAA Digital Coast, and others to Great Lakes coastal hazard issues, culminating with a self-guided project to develop a multi-hazard vulnerability viewer.

For more information on the 2019 projects, please visit the fellowship website at coast.noaa.gov/fellowship/stateprojects.html or contact the fellowship coordinator at ocm.fellowships@noaa.gov.



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Fellow Eligibility and Selection

Eligibility

Any U.S. Citizen who will complete a master's or other advanced degree program in natural resource management or environment-related studies at an accredited U.S. university between January 1, 2018, and July 31, 2019, is eligible to apply for the Coastal Management Fellowship. Students from a broad range of environmental programs are encouraged to apply. Students who are not U.S. citizens or attended non-U.S. institutions are not eligible. All applications must include the following items:

1. Resume or curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages using 12 pt. font).
2. Statement of the applicant's goals with emphasis on what the applicant expects from and can contribute to the fellowship experience (500 words or less).
3. Two letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant's principal professor. If no principal professor exists, the faculty member who is most familiar with the applicant's academic work may be substituted.
4. Unofficial copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.

How to Apply

Application packages must be submitted to the Sea Grant program office in the state where you earned your degree by January 18, 2019. Each Sea Grant program office may select and forward up to three applications to the NOAA Office for Coastal Management for review. Applicants from states not served by a Sea Grant program office should contact the Office's fellowship coordinator for more information on submitting an application (contact information is below).

Selection Criteria

Finalists are selected based on the following criteria:

1. Academic performance and diversity of educational background, including extracurricular activities, awards, and honors.
2. Endorsement of the applicant's Sea Grant director.
3. Support from two letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant's principal professor.
4. Content of the applicant's goal statement.

All qualified applicants will be considered regardless of age, race, sex, creed, marital status, national origin, lawful political affiliation, religious preference, or nondisqualifying physical handicap.

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Selection of Finalists

From the nominations submitted by Sea Grant directors, 12 finalists will be selected by a selection panel. Final decisions will be made by March 15, 2019, and all applicants will be notified of the decision by the end of the following week.

Placement of Fellows

A workshop to match states with fellows will take place in Charleston, South Carolina, April 29 to May 3, 2019. Before the workshop begins, each of the 12 finalists will receive a packet of information detailing the coastal management projects, each of the host agencies, and the background of the area of assignment. No contact between prospective hosts and finalists should be made prior to the placement workshop.

The finalists will be brought to the workshop at the expense of the NOAA Office for Coastal Management for final interviews and placement. Each of the selected host states will send the fellow mentor to the placement workshop. The workshop will consist of a fellowship orientation program, host state project proposal presentations, finalist presentations, finalist and host state interviews, and fellow matching. Of the 12 finalists selected in 2019, six will be placed with a host state.

For Further Information

For further information, please visit the fellowship website at coast.noaa.gov/fellowship or contact:

Coastal Management Fellowship Program
NOAA Office for Coastal Management
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405-2413
Email: ocm.fellowships@noaa.gov

MATCHING STATE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS WITH FUTURE COASTAL MANAGERS



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What degree program does someone need to complete to be eligible for the fellowship?

A: For the 2019 fellowship, applicants must complete a master's or other advanced degree by July 31, 2019, to be eligible. A broad range of degrees are applicable to the fellowship because the state projects are new and different each year. Previous fellows have had degrees in environmental studies, natural resource management, marine affairs, marine science, geology, public affairs, and regional land management. The most important prerequisite is an interest in state-level coastal issues.

Q: What criteria do the Sea Grant directors use when writing their letters of endorsement?

A: The Sea Grant directors evaluate applicants based on a face-to-face or phone interview. They look for applicants who have a strong professional interest in coastal management, especially at the state and local level; have experience, through internships, extracurricular activities, or jobs, in coastal activities; and have a proven ability in interpersonal, oral, and written communication.

Q: What is the length of a fellowship project?

A: Fellowship projects are two years long. For instance, the 2019 fellowship will start in August 2019 and end in August 2021. Newly selected fellows are given the opportunity to visit their host states prior to the start of the fellowship to meet the staff at their host state and to look for housing.

Q: Can a state coastal zone program nominate someone for a fellowship position?

A: State coastal zone programs cannot nominate anyone to be a fellow on their state project. Host states and fellows are selected independently of one another and then matched up through a mutual interview process. Contact between applicants and host states is not allowed. Applicants are encouraged to read about the host state projects on the website or to contact current fellows and ask them questions about their position or experience.

Q: Does the place where applicants live or go to school determine what project they are eligible for?

A: Not at all. Applicants are eligible for any of the state projects regardless of where they live or have studied.

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Q: What is the salary for the Coastal Management Fellowship?

A: The current salary is \$34,000 per year. In the second year of the fellowship, a locality pay factor may be added to the salary, depending on the location of the fellowship.

Q: How do fellows get paid?

A: All of the benefits, including salary, are administered by an outside contractor through a contract with the NOAA Office for Coastal Management.

Q: What other benefits, in addition to salary, are included as part of the fellowship?

A: Health insurance, worker's compensation, relocation reimbursement, and travel reimbursement.

Q: How much relocation reimbursement do fellows receive?

A: Fellows will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 to move to their fellowship location and up to \$1,000 to move at the end of the two-year fellowship. If relocation is not required or the fellowship is not completed, relocation reimbursement will not be provided.

Q: How much travel reimbursement do fellows receive?

A: Fellows will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 per year for professional development travel. A separate pot of money will be set aside for fellows to travel to specific meetings and conferences required by the fellowship program. Any travel related to their state project will be reimbursed by the host state.

Q: Do fellows have contact with one another during the fellowship?

A: The fellows see each other at three events throughout their fellowships. One is the fellows' meeting, which takes place in the summer of each odd year, and the other is a winter conference, which changes depending on the year. In even years, the fellows attend the Social Coast Forum, and in odd years they attend the Coastal GeoTools Conference.

Q: Where have previous fellows gone on to work?

A: Fifty-eight percent of fellows accepted positions with state government as their first post-fellowship job. Others accepted positions with the private sector (8 percent), the federal government (13 percent), nongovernmental organizations (8 percent), local governments (3 percent), academia (5 percent), and 5 percent went back to school.

For more information about the Coastal Management Fellowship, please visit the website at www.coast.noaa.gov/fellowship.

