



CSUMB COAST Undergraduate Student Research Awards

AY 2015-2016

Application Deadline: Monday, November 30, 5:00 p.m. PDT

The CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST) is the CSU system-wide affinity group for marine and coastal related activities. COAST integrates system-wide resources and promotes interdisciplinary multi-campus collaborations to advance our knowledge of California's natural coastal and marine resources and the processes that affect them. The scope of COAST includes the ocean, coast and coastal watersheds. COAST's goals are to

- Advance our knowledge of natural coastal and marine resources and the processes that affect them.
- Support research related to marine, estuarine, and coastal regions.
- Develop innovative solutions to the economic, sociological, ecological and technological challenges that our coastal zone faces.
- Promote environmental literacy to foster stewardship and sustainable use of our coast.

COAST aims to increase CSU student participation in faculty-mentored marine and coastal research throughout the CSU. Through funding from the Chancellor's Office and the campuses, COAST will provide support to CSU undergraduate students (up to \$1,500) working with CSU COAST faculty members. These awards will support students interested in pursuing marine-related careers and provide them with the opportunity to obtain the skills necessary to join a highly skilled, technologically advanced workforce while promoting and supporting CSU faculty research.

Key Dates & Information

Application Deadline: Monday, November 30, 2015, 5:00 p.m. PDT

Earliest Award Notification: January 25, 2016

Maximum Award Amount: \$1500

Anticipated Project Start Date: February 1, 2016

All money must be expended by: August 15, 2016

Questions or additional information: Contact Dr. James Lindholm (jlindholm@csumb.edu),
COAST Executive Committee Chair

Applicant Requirements and Guidance

Applicants are required to

1. Work with a CSU COAST faculty mentor, and

2. Define a project that supports one or more of COAST's goals.

The sponsoring faculty member must be subscribed to the COAST listserv and have a current profile on Fresca (<https://fresca.calstate.edu/>) including the following elements: contact and biographical information, areas of interest (keywords) and relevant publications.

Applicants must be CSU students in their Junior or Senior year with a major GPA of 3.00 or better. Part-time undergraduate students may apply if they will be enrolled full time during the award period. Faculty mentors must verify these conditions in the letter of recommendation.

Preference will be given to new applicants who have not previously received a COAST Research Award. Prior Award recipients are eligible to apply provided they have met the obligations of their previous award, however they must rank in the top 10% of all applications received in order to receive an Award for 2015-16.

COAST encourages all types of research. Clear connections to COAST goals must be identified. Priority will be given to projects that are applicable to the needs of California.

Individual students may submit only one application in response to this announcement. Faculty members may sponsor more than one student.

Previous awards are listed at

http://www.calstate.edu/coast/funding/past_student_research_awards.shtml. Examples of previously funded applications are available at

http://www.calstate.edu/coast/funding/funded_applications_student.shtml.

Application Materials and Instructions

The project description must clearly describe the research project to be conducted, including its significance, novelty and application. Primary literature must be referenced. The project description must include experimental design, including a clear statement of hypotheses, methodology and planned data analysis. If your project is part of a larger, overall project, the description must also clearly define how your work contributes to the overall project. The project description is limited to 1500 words; references are submitted in a separate section. The quality of writing will be judged.

The relation to COAST's goals section must clearly articulate how your general interest in marine/coastal science and your proposed project relate to one or more of the goals of COAST, as listed on page 1 of this announcement. Explain how the proposed research is related to your career goals. Priority will be given to projects that also are applicable to the needs of California.

The statement of need must explain how this award will help further and support your specific research experience and overall undergraduate education. Allowable expenses will include:

research supplies, non-capitalized equipment (<\$5,000), and travel to field sites. Salary and travel to conferences are NOT allowed. Include a timeline detailing how you will use this award and include your anticipated graduation date.

See Evaluation Criteria below for specific point values associated with each of these elements.

Letter of Recommendation

The faculty mentor must provide a letter of recommendation. The letter must be on institutional letterhead and submitted electronically as either a scanned version of an original containing a signature or must contain an electronic signature. Letters must detail the faculty member's familiarity with the student, the value of the student's proposed research and must comment on the student's ability to successfully conduct and complete the proposed project. Letters must verify that the student will be a full-time Junior or Senior in one of the four majors within the Division of Science and Environmental Policy (Marine Science, Biology, Environmental Science, Technology, and Policy, and Environmental Studies) during the award period and has a major GPA of 3.00 or better at the time of application. Faculty members may sponsor more than one student. Faculty members must submit their letters as pdf files directly to jlindholm@csumb.edu.

All materials must be submitted by November 30, 2015, 5:00 p.m. PDT. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on the quality of the research described, how the proposed research meets one or more of the goals of COAST, and the need for support. The following evaluation criteria will be employed:

- Project description (55 points): Quality of writing (15); clear description of project (15); significance and novelty (5); experimental design and methodology (10); clearly stated hypotheses (5); data analysis plan (5)
- Relation to COAST goals (15 points): General interest in marine/coastal science and career goals (5); relationship of proposed research to marine, estuarine, coastal, or coastal watershed environments, organisms or issues (5); application to California's needs (5)
- Need for support (10 points): Clear demonstration that the award will support your research goals and contribute to your overall education. Timeline must be included.
- References (10 points): Statements sufficiently referenced (5); use of original, peer-reviewed literature, both foundational and current (5)
- Letter of Recommendation (10 points): Faculty member's relationship with student, value of student's research, student's ability to conduct research

Award Conditions

Awardees are required to

1. Make an oral or poster presentation at an on-campus research symposium or external meeting or conference within one year of receiving the Award, and acknowledge COAST in the presentation.
2. Acknowledge COAST in any publications resulting in whole or in part from the Award.
3. Provide COAST with an abstract of their research and a one-page summary of the impact of this award on their undergraduate experience and professional goals within six months of receiving the award.