



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

2022-2025 Aquaculture Outreach & Communications Graduate Fellowship Program

The Florida Sea Grant College Program is soliciting applications for a graduate student fellowship in aquaculture outreach and communications. The fellowship provides a unique educational opportunity for an early career aquaculture specialist with interest and/or background in outreach and science communication to gain hands-on experience working towards sustainable aquaculture development.

This Fellowship will provide a current graduate student the opportunity to engage with the dynamic team of Florida Sea Grant (FSG) extension agents who work with state and federal agencies, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and members of the Florida coastal community, to identify emerging issues in the expansion of aquaculture in Florida, conduct applied communications research and activities, and share findings with stakeholder groups. Together, the statewide extension team will support and connect the fellow to appropriate stakeholders (i.e., academic researchers, industry leaders, non-profit organizations, non-government organizations, and K-12 educators). The extension fellow will gain professional experience in planning, implementation, and management, providing a unique educational opportunity for students interested in outreach and communications pertaining to marine resources utilization. The fellow will also work with science communications professionals to facilitate the development and dissemination of outreach and communications products intended to educate stakeholders on the issues involving the development of this sector of Florida's Blue Economy.

Florida Sea Grant anticipates funding 2-3 Fellowships, each capped at \$50,000, over the course of 9/1/22 – 1/21/2025. Fellowship competitions will be open on a rolling basis. The first was awarded in 2022 with a focus on offshore aquaculture. This RFP, the second, is focusing on ***planning, policy and permitting for restoration aquaculture***. Fellowships will require a 25% match.

The goals of this fellowship are to achieve the following with respect to the focus area identified for each opportunity:

- To encourage qualified applicants to pursue careers in science communication with a focus on coastal and ocean issues;
- To increase available expertise in science-based communication about aquaculture and its contribution to Florida's Blue Economy;
- To foster science-based understanding of the issues involving aquaculture among academic scientists, industry, non-profit organizations and the general public; and

- To provide professional experiences for graduate students that accelerate their career development.

Description of Activities/Products Expected

This opportunity will provide the fellow with a professional experience that will add value to an academic, resource management, and/or science-based outreach/communication career path. The fellow will enhance their skills and knowledge related to marine and coastal science outreach and communication, through interactions with Florida Sea Grant's Research, Extension and communications programs. Interested students may orient their applications towards the following types of activities and products:

- Writing to promote restoration aquaculture literacy for the general public;
- Producing visual, multimedia, video, web, or audio products to communicate research or topics relevant to restoration aquaculture, including the permitting process for projects involving new and emerging species;
- Organizing virtual and in-person events to communicate about restoration aquaculture to relevant stakeholders as well as the public, and identifying and networking with organizations and groups that may support this activity;
- Producing and publishing educational content for social media, analyzing engagement, and collaborating with FSG to develop and distribute communication products.

Eligibility

Applications are sought from students close to completing an advanced degree (Masters, Ph.D., or J.D.) at an accredited Florida university in a field pertinent to aquaculture (e.g., natural resource management, biology, oceanography, environmental policy), and with experience or interest in science outreach and communication. Applicants must be students at the time of application.

Sea Grant is committed to increasing the diversity of the Sea Grant workforce and of the communities we serve. Sea Grant embraces individuals of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, job classifications, veteran status types, and income, and socioeconomic status types. Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication, and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives and ways of thinking.

Budget

The fellowship will pay up to \$50,000 for up to one year. Eligible budget items include stipend, tuition, fees, health insurance, travel, materials and supplies and workshop expenses. Indirect costs are not allowed for this student-oriented program. A justification is needed for each budgeted item that is commensurate with the proposed project activities. Be sure to include proposed starting and end dates.

A 25% match is required and can be met with commitment of other non-federal university resources and/or resources provided by partner companies or organizations. The source and value of the match must be identified and described.

Length of Assignment

Earliest start date is June 1, 2023; the end date of the program can be no longer than one-year after the start date.

The Application

A complete application will include documents 1-7 described below:

1. Curriculum vitae (CV) (not to exceed two pages using 12-point font).
2. Personal education and career goal statement that emphasizes the applicant's abilities and interest in science communication, and the applicant's expectations of the career development experience (500 words or less).
3. Draft blog written by the applicant about aquaculture, preferably on the focus of this opportunity, for a general audience. (500 words or less)
4. Project proposal narrative (not to exceed five pages) Summarize the need, objectives, methods, and timeline of the Extension and communications project/activities being proposed. The narrative can include a statement of leveraged funding or activities that this project will build upon and/or augment. The itemized budget for funding and for match and associated justification/description must be included as well.
5. Student undergraduate and graduate transcripts. Unofficial copies will be accepted.
6. Two letters of professional recommendation. From a faculty advisor or supervisor who is familiar with the applicant's capabilities and potential in the area of science outreach and communication.
7. Letter of institutional approval/commitment. UF requires sub-awardees to upload a letter of commitment signed by an Authorized Fiscal Authority (e.g., representative from the office of research or sponsored programs). There is no template for this letter. UF-based applicants will satisfy this requirement using UF's UFIRST system.

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Strength of CV and Educational Transcripts (10%)
- Education and Career Goal Statement (20%)
- Blog (20%)
- Project Narrative (35%)
- Letters of recommendation (15%)

Important Dates

- March 15, 2023 (11:59 pm EDT): Applications due
- April 15, 2023 (approximate): Finalist is notified of selection
- June 1, 2023: Earliest date fellowship can begin
- Fellowship will end one-year from the start date

How to Submit Your Application

Your application must be submitted using Florida Sea Grant's online submission portal: <https://eflseagrant.ifas.ufl.edu>. In the portal, you will find this opportunity listed under the "Fellowships Tab" of the page.

Questions?

Questions about this opportunity and about the application portal (eSeaGrant) can be directed to:

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