

CSU COAST
CSUMB Undergraduate Student Research Award Program
2017-18

Announcement

What: Up to \$500 to support undergraduate research projects in marine and coastal science.

Who: Current CSUMB undergraduate students in good academic standing (suggested GPA >2.8) can propose a marine or coastal research activity. If appropriate, joint applications with other CSUMB students are encouraged. Students must work with a CSUMB COAST faculty advisor who must nominate you before you can apply. You may ask a faculty member to nominate you or they may nominate you and notify you directly.

When Can I Apply: Proposals can be submitted anytime between Oct. 1-Nov 11, 2017 (Fall semester) and Jan. 29-Apr. 10, 2018 (Spring semester). Upon submission we will review your proposal and make a decision within 10 working days. The proposal process is open until the funds for each semester are used.

How Much: Up to \$500 may be requested for supplies, software, and fees. A student may submit an application in the Spring and Fall semesters (for up to \$1000) if funds are still available.

How to Apply: Read the FAQs below, fill out the application form, and follow the instructions for submission. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Direct questions to Dr. Cheryl Logan: clogan@csumb.edu

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the source of the funding?

Funding is provided jointly by the CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST).

2. What is the goal of this funding opportunity?

To support undergraduate students interested in marine-related careers and provide them with the opportunity to obtain the skills necessary to join a highly skilled, technologically advanced workforce in the marine sciences.

3. What are the eligibility requirements to apply for a grant?

Students must be enrolled at CSUMB and propose an activity on a marine-related subject. The students must be in good academic standing (GPA > 2.0) and work with a CSUMB COAST faculty advisor. A letter of recommendation from the faculty advisor is not required but you must be nominated by a CSUMB COAST faculty advisor prior to submission. Your advisor is the person working with you on the project and can be your formal advisor, a course instructor, or an interested faculty member.

4. What does it take to be a CSUMB COAST faculty?

Faculty advisors can be instructors, research associates, post-docs or on tenure-track at CSUMB. To join COAST they must join the COAST list-serve and create a Fresca profile (fresca.calstate.edu). COAST is open to anyone in the CSU with an interest in marine and coastal affairs. Contact [COAST Staff](#) for more information and to [sign up for the COAST email list](#), which provides information on COAST activities and other marine and coastal related groups, meetings, and funding opportunities.

5. When can I submit a proposal?

There will be two funding opportunities in 2017-18: Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. Proposals can be submitted at any time between Oct. 1-Nov 11, 2016 (Fall semester) and Jan. 29-Apr. 10, 2017 (Spring semester). A total of \$1,200 is available per semester. Upon submission, we will review your proposal and make a decision within 10 working days, thus earlier submissions are more likely to be funded.

6. What types of projects are supported by COAST funding?

The scope of topics that can be supported include:

- *The open and coastal ocean;*
- *Coastal zones (bays, estuaries, beaches);*
- *Coastal watersheds to the extent that the organism, material or process ultimately articulates with the coast (e.g., anadromous fish, surface and groundwater flow and water quality, land use, etc.).*

Work supported by COAST is NOT limited to California. Please see <https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/coast/about/Pages/about.aspx> for additional information.

7. What budget items are supported by this opportunity?

Undergraduate students may request up to \$500. Examples of research-related expenses include, but are not limited to:

- *Research supplies or materials;*
- *Travel to field site to collect samples or gather interviews or to an off campus facility to analyze samples;*
- *Rentals fees for boats, SCUBA or other specialized equipment;*
- *Purchase of field gear;*
- *Sample analysis costs;*
- *Purchase of specialized software or equipment to analyze samples or data, including socioeconomic data.*

NOTE: Funds requested for travel are a low priority for this opportunity and must be well justified to be considered. We do not support travel to meetings or workshops or requests for wages or tuition. CSU COAST offers a separate opportunity for student travel funds (<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/coast/funding/Pages/student-funding.aspx>)

8. When do funds have to be used?

Funds can be used to support activities occurring between Oct. 1, 2017 and Aug. 31, 2018. The funds must be spent or encumbered by Aug. 31, 2018.

9. What should I write for the project description?

The project description should describe the research or activity you propose to conduct in a clear and concise statement and address how the project will help you achieve your career goals. The description should describe the context for the activity, the hypotheses to be tested (if any), and the methodology to be used in the study. Projects can involve more than one student. Faculty input is strongly encouraged but the description should be written by the student.

10. How will projects be evaluated?

Proposals will be ranked on the importance of the research, the likelihood of project completion, the impact on student success, and the need for support. Those who have not received prior funding, or funding from other sources, are given priority. Joint proposals are encouraged but funding is still limited to \$500 per student.