

Fiscal Year 2018 National Sea Grant College Program Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship

AMENDMENT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Sea Grant College Program, through the Knauss Fellowship Program, provides an educational experience in the areas of policy and processes of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government. This fellowship is available for students enrolled in graduate or professional programs that have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.

Depending on FY2018 Congressional appropriations, the quality of applications, and potential host office participation, the National Sea Grant Office anticipates funding not less than 30 selected applicants, of which those assigned to the Legislative branch may be limited to 12. Each award will be funded at a total of \$61,500 in federal funding, with the option to add additional funds for fellowship related travel, relocation and other expenses.

Due Date

Applicants must submit application materials to the Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program by **5:00 p.m.** local time on **February 21, 2017**.

Eligibility

An eligible applicant is any student, regardless of citizenship, who, on February 21, 2017, is enrolled towards a degree in a graduate program that has an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. The graduate degree needs to be awarded through a United States accredited institution of higher education in Puerto Rico. Applicants not enrolled in an institution in Puerto Rico must request a referral and include this referral as part of the application. To request the referral please contact:

Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship Program Manager
National Sea Grant College Program
1315 East-West Highway, R/SG, Room 11861
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: (301) 734-1067
E-mail: OAR.SG.Fellows@noaa.gov

This is a onetime fellowship opportunity. Applicants that have participated in the fellowship in the past years will not be eligible to submit an application. The fellowship will take place in the National Capital region. Applicants must be able to reside in the Washington, DC area. Non-US citizens are

responsible for obtaining the appropriate visa to allow them to work in the Washington, DC area during the fellowship period. Foreign nationals please note: while this fellowship is open to all eligible students regardless of nationality, a significant number of participating Federal host offices are unable to accept foreign nationals as fellows in their offices.

Project/Award Period

Awards are anticipated to start on February 1, 2018 and run for 13 months, and cannot be renewed or deferred. The final month of the award is for fellows to use to move, and is not intended for fellows to carry out host office activities or any other fellowship-salaried activities.

Content and Form of Application

(1) **Two signed letters of recommendation on letterhead**, including one from the student's major professor; if no major professor exists, a faculty person academically knowing the applicant best may be substituted. Letters should focus on the student's academic and professional experiences, and extracurricular activities understood to be relevant to the Knauss fellowship. Letters of recommendation must be addressed to the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program's Director and can be emailed to ruperto.chaparro@upr.edu or yulissa.garcial@upr.edu. Letters can also be sent via regular mail to:

Ruperto Chaparro, MA
Director
Sea Grant College Program
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez
PO Box 9000
Mayagüez, PR 00681-9000

(2) **A personal education and career goal statement.** The personal statement should be no longer than 1000 words, and should emphasize:

- Abilities, relevant experience and knowledge that the applicant will contribute to the host office.
- Applicant's expectations from the fellowship experience in the way of career development.
- Placement preference in the legislative or executive branches of the government may be stated; this preference will be honored to the extent possible.

(3) **Curriculum vitae** (not to exceed two pages).

(4) Clear, scanned copy of all official **undergraduate and graduate student transcripts**.

(5) **Listing of classes and/or plans for spring 2017, summer 2017 and fall 2017** (not to exceed one page).

(6) To apply through the Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program, applicants must be enrolled in a United States accredited institution of higher education in Puerto Rico. Applicants who are not enrolled in an institution in Puerto Rico must request a **written statement from the Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship Program Manager** referring the applicant to the most appropriate eligible Sea Grant program.

Funding Restrictions

The Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program receives and administers the overall cooperative agreement of \$61,500 and optional additional fellowship-related travel, relocation and other funds on behalf of each fellow selected from this program. Of this amount, the Program provides \$47,500 to each fellow for salary/stipend for the first twelve months of the fellowship. Other allowable expenses are: fringe benefits, travel expenses for placement week, health insurance, and academic- and fellowship-related travel expense. Any funds remaining after salary and fringe are accounted for must first be used to support travel of the fellow to placement week, and then to the other allowable expenses indicated above.

Successful applicants may be awarded additional funds for fellowship-related travel, relocation, and other expenses without further competition.

Application Review Process

The Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program will review the applications received and select the applicants to be recommended to the National Sea Grant College Program review committee by April 7, 2017. No more than six applications may be selected and forwarded to the National Sea Grant Office by the Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program.

The National Sea Grant Office will notify the Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program the successful and unsuccessful applicants by June 9, 2017. This email will contain a written summary of the review panel comments. The Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program will, in turn, formally notify each successful and unsuccessful applicant and forward the summary comments provided by the National Sea Grant Office.

Evaluation criteria

At the state or territory level review, the evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

- (1) Recommendations and/or endorsements of student (15 percent total): Endorsement/content of the letter from the applicant's major professor, and the second letter of recommendation.
- (2) Academic record (undergraduate and graduate) and statement of career goals and objectives of student (45 percent total): Quality of the applicant's personal education and career goal statement (30 percent); Strength of academic performance (15 percent).
- (3) Additional relevant experience (40 percent total) related to diversity of education, extra-curricular activities, honors and awards, and interpersonal, written, and oral communications

skills. For the Knauss Sea Grant Fellowship Program, relevant experience would be in marine or aquatic-related fields.

At the national review, evaluation criteria are identical to that at the state or territory level, except that in criteria (1), the letter of endorsement from the sponsoring Sea Grant program director will also be considered.

To learn more about the Knauss Fellowship:

<http://seagrants.noaa.gov/fundingfellowships/knaussfellowship.aspx>

Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program contact information:

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