

Oregon Sea Grant Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program Application

Purpose

To contribute to a diverse ocean workforce that understands technical and social challenges facing coastal communities and the natural environment, and prepare undergraduate students for graduate school and careers in marine science, policy, management, and outreach.

Applications Due

February 15, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Oregon Sea Grant is excited to announce our 11th annual undergraduate Summer Scholars Program

This PAID ten-week program runs from June 14-August 20, and places high-caliber junior and senior undergraduate students from around the country with a variety of Oregon-based host organizations (public agency, non-profit, non-governmental) to provide a diversity* of students with hands-on experience under the mentorship of a career professional. Scholars can assist host agencies with field work, lab work, analyses, research, policy development, and/or outreach and public engagement efforts.

**Diversity refers to persons from various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds who contribute a diverse perspective stemming from various lived experiences, skills, and interests.*

In addition to aligning with Oregon Sea Grant's vision, mission and values, the goals of the Oregon Sea Grant Scholars Program are:

1. Prepare students for graduate school and/or careers in marine science, policy, management, and outreach through funding support and hands on experience.
2. Support host organization program initiatives and facilitate scholars' understanding of their work's importance in accomplishing the broader host organization goals.
3. Promote integration of diverse perspectives into problem solving for coastal Oregon to provide richer and more inclusive solutions.

The Summer Scholars Program encourages student success during and after their internship through cultivating an inclusive environment, creating a broad professional network in the marine field, offering professional development opportunities with an emphasis on science communication, and fostering a supportive mentor/mentee relationship.

In 2021, the Oregon Sea Grant Summer Scholars will be participating in some activities of the National Sea Grant [Community Engaged Internship Program](#) which is designed for undergraduate students from underrepresented and indigenous communities. The overarching goal of this internship program is to broaden participation in marine and coastal professions by providing training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision makers and citizens.

What to Expect - ****the details below are subject to change due to COVID-19 constraints – updates will be shared with all applicants as they occur in real time****

Summer Scholar Expectations: Scholars will be placed with the Oregon Sea Grant Program, a federal or state agency, or non-governmental organization, and will assist host agencies with field work, lab work, analyses, research, policy development, and/or outreach and public engagement efforts. They will be assigned to a specific project under a mentor and will be expected to dedicate at least 40 hours a week to the program. The program will provide students with training on subjects such as ecosystem-based management, professional and scientific communication, field- and lab-based scientific methods, natural resource policy development, public outreach, and roles of federal, state and local governments in natural resource management. The program may include field trips within Oregon and an opportunity for students to present their summer work. Scholars will be expected to participate in all program activities and complete a final project report during the last week of their experience.

Eligibility: Any undergraduate student who will have completed the equivalent of two years of full time study by June 14, 2021 *and* who is currently enrolled in any U.S. college or university (or who will have graduated during the 2020-2021 academic year) may apply. Students from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Foreign nationals please note: while this opportunity is open to all eligible students regardless of nationality, some participating host offices are unable to accept international applicants. This may reduce the number of placement opportunities available to foreign nationals. Also, additional taxes may be applied to your stipend, depending on your country's tax treaty with the US.

Important Dates

February 15 – Applications due by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time

Early March – Interviews with top candidates

March 12 – Notification of Awards and Placement

June 14 – Summer Scholars Program begins

August 20 – Summer Scholars Program ends

Application Process

How to apply: Applications to Oregon Sea Grant are received through eSeaGrant. Complete the following account registration well before the February 15, 2021 application deadline, so that there is time for you to request assistance if needed. Please contact jenny.engels@oregonstate.edu by February 10, 2021 if you need account registration assistance.

Create an account to access the fellowship application as follows:

1. Go to eseagrant.oregonstate.edu
2. Click the "REGISTER" tab on the top right corner of the login "box".
3. Follow the instructions—you will get two verification codes through the process. One by email and the other by phone.
4. Once you create your account and log in, you should see the Summer Scholars application in your "Current Tasks".
5. If you have any issues with this process, send an email to eseagrant@oregonstate.edu.

All application materials (see **Required Application Components** below) should be uploaded to eSeaGrant by **February 15, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.** Please be sure to provide recommendation writers with adequate time to complete and submit their letters (at a minimum, two weeks advance notice is a best-practice). While we encourage electronic submission of your application, if this is not a possibility please contact jenny.engels@oregonstate.edu by February 10, 2021 and we will provide accommodations.

Required Application Components:

A complete application will include the following 4 components. **The personal statement, résumé, and transcripts must be uploaded to eSeaGrant as one combined PDF in the order listed below.** Letters of recommendation are submitted directly by the letter writer.

1. A one or two-page résumé describing your work and/or volunteer experience. Please use 12 point Times New Roman font and 1 inch margins. The résumé must include your name, contact information (including phone and email address), GPA, and educational history. The résumé should also detail your work and volunteer history, particularly as it relates to the Summer Scholars opportunity. Certain host opportunities are only available to U.S. citizens. To help the selection committee identify eligibility, you may include your citizenship in your résumé. Indicating your citizenship is optional.

2. A personal statement in essay style not to exceed 1,500 words. Use 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, and 1.5-line spacing. The statement should have:

- a) one or two paragraphs about your personal/professional/academic background including your related experience, your major and why you chose it, and why you are interested in marine science, policy, management, and/or outreach
- b) one or two paragraphs about how your experience with people from various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds will contribute to the Summer Scholars program
- c) one or two paragraphs about your academic and professional goals, including your plans for the next academic year and your graduation date or anticipated graduation date
- d) one paragraph on how you think this scholarship would help you reach these goals – you may choose to indicate which projects you are interested in and why

3. Unofficial transcripts showing all college level education. Official transcripts will be requested at a later date if selected for an interview.

4. Two letters of recommendation. One letter should be from someone who supervised you in a work or volunteer position and can describe your qualifications for the Summer Scholars Program. The second letter should be from a college professor or advisor and focus on academic achievement. A minimum of two weeks advance notice for your letter writers is considered a best-practice. The applicant will request letters of recommendation directly through the eSeaGrant system, and the letter writer will upload their digital letter of recommendation onto eSeaGrant. **Letters of recommendation must be received by February 15, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.**

Note: Please include **only** the required components in your application packet (i.e., do not include a cover letter, additional recommendations, or photos). Failure to follow all guidelines may result in disqualification of your application.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Oregon Sea Grant Scholars Program Leader, Program Coordinator, Program Assistant, and a small selection committee. Top candidates will be interviewed via video conference by the selection committee. Up to ten students will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Ability to articulate academic and professional goals, including alignment of goals with the Oregon Sea Grant Scholars Program
- Ability to articulate benefits derived from specific Oregon Sea Grant project opportunity(ies) and host location(s), and how the placement(s) will help you reach your goals
- Alignment of applicant interests, goals, and skills with the needs of host agencies and mentors
- Letters of recommendation
- Academic achievement, including GPA and extracurricular activities, especially in natural and social sciences, communication, policy, and outreach
- Verbal communication skills, as demonstrated during the interview

Award

Up to 10 selected students will be awarded a \$5,000 stipend to offset living expenses during the ten-week fellowship. Student housing will be provided at no cost to the student. A small number of need-based assistance grants may be available to offset travel expenses; these will require a supplemental application once students are selected.

Host Descriptions

Hosts and assignments change from year to year. The 2021 host opportunities will be posted soon. You can read about 2020 host descriptions [here](#).

Contact Information

We strongly discourage potential applicants from contacting host agencies. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Oregon Sea Grant.

For questions about the application process:

Research and Scholars Program Assistant: Jenny Engels, jenny.engels@oregonstate.edu

Additional contacts:

Research and Scholars Program Leader: Sarah Kolesar, 541-737-8695, sarah.kolesar@oregonstate.edu

Research and Scholars Program Coordinator: Stephanie Ichien, 541-737-0661, stephanie.ichien@oregonstate.edu