Joint Graduate Student Research Funding Opportunity
RFP Issue Date: April 18, 2016
Proposal Due Date: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

North Carolina Sea Grant (NCSG), in partnership with The Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) of the University of North Carolina system, is providing competitive funding for a special graduate student funding opportunity in four focus areas.

2016 Focus Areas:
1. Groundwater issues in North Carolina including but not limited to: energy development, quantity, quality, saltwater intrusion, and interactions with surface water.
2. Eutrophication issues on North Carolina lakes, streams, rivers and estuaries including but not limited to: causes, impacts, trends, and management strategies, including criteria development.
3. Stormwater management including but not limited to: drainage from agricultural lands, riparian buffers, best management practices, low-impact development, and in-stream mitigation strategies.
4. Economic and social science aspects of water resource management and planning including but not limited to: rate structures, stakeholder choices, and risk perception.

Details:
We invite proposals for one-year, question-driven research projects, with budgets up to $10,000 in grant funds. Indirect costs may not be charged. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged. Work with your faculty sponsor and university office of sponsored research (or similar) for assistance with budget questions and allowable expenses. Projects not eligible for funding under this call include those focused on: monitoring-only activities, health effects involving human subjects, and projects focused only on ocean waters. Submitted proposals must justify how the proposed work relates to the missions of both NCSG (https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/about-us/our-vision/) and WRRI (https://wrri.ncsu.edu/mission/). Expected project start dates are Sept. 1, 2016. Successful projects may be funded in whole or part by federal (USGS and/or NOAA) funds, contingent upon appropriation by Congress. Appropriation and availability of these federal funds is not certain at the date of issue of this call but have historically been reliable. Continued availability of other (non-federal) funds is expected.

Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.
Eligibility:
Only full-time graduate students in good academic standing attending an accredited college or university (public or private) in North Carolina may apply. Students must have a faculty sponsor who will serve as the official awardee for the project. NCSG/WRRI is not able to contract directly with students. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible for funding under this RFP. Undergraduate students may not apply directly for funding, but undergraduate participation in the proposed projects is encouraged.

We intend to fund up to three student proposals, pending funding availability and quality of proposals.

Proposal Format: Proposals should be prepared using 1-inch margins all around, using Times New Roman 12-point font. Pages should be numbered consecutively starting with the cover page as page 1. The number of pages in parentheses with description below indicates the maximum for each section.

Proposals must contain all of — and only — the following elements:
- Signed cover page
- Project proposal
- References cited
- Budget
- Budget Explanation
- CVs
- Letter of support from sponsoring faculty member (Include other letters if applicable)

1. Signed Cover Page (limited to 1 page)
Cover pages must be fully executed. Proposals from outside NC State University must bear an authorized university signature from an office of sponsored research (or similar). Proposals from within NC State must include the proposal’s PINS number rather than signatures on the title page. Cover pages must also include the following elements:
- Proposal title
- Proposed start and end date (expected start date Sept. 1, 2016)
- Budget request (total amount only, no breakdown, keeping in mind the $10,000 limit)
- Faculty sponsor’s name, academic rank or title, university and department/school, mailing address, phone number, and email address
- Student applicant’s name and all the details listed above
- Name, academic rank or title, university and department/school, and email address for other co-PIs
- Three keywords for the proposed project
- Statement that “The proposed project would OR would not [pick one] involve funds going to a USGS collaborator.” (This is only for administrative purposes and is not a factor in identifying the successful proposals.)
2. Body of Proposal (limited to 4 pages)
   - An introduction and statement of the problem addressed, including how the proposal relates to one or more of the focus areas of this funding opportunity and to the missions of both NCSG and WRRI
   - Specific objectives that will be addressed
   - Methods to be used
   - Timeline of tasks that will be completed
   - The expected products or outcomes
   - Outreach plan noting how the results will be made available to others. Proposals that do not include a well thought out outreach plan will not receive favorable reviews.

3. References Cited (no limit)
Provide full citations for all references cited in the body of the proposal, in standard bibliographical format, in alphabetical order by the first author’s last name.

4. Budget (1 page)
Provide a detailed budget for your project. Funds may be used for any purpose related to the project, including stipends. **Indirect costs are not allowed and cannot be included in the budget.**

5. Budget Explanation (1 page)
A complete budget justification should be included for each item listed in the budget. The justification should be detailed enough to allow evaluation by NCSG and WRRI.

6. Curricula Vitae (2 pages per investigator)
Provide a CV for student applicant, the faculty mentor, and any other co-PIs included in the proposal.

7. Letters of Support or Collaboration (at least 1 page, others optional as appropriate)
Students must include a letter of support from the main faculty PI serving as the official project awardee. Other letters (optional, but encouraged) may be included from partnering organizations, agencies or stakeholders to showcase the need for your proposed work.

**Proposal Submission**
Email your proposal as an Adobe PDF file to Debra Lynch, debra@ncsu.edu.
**The email submission must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.**

**Timeline**
- April 18, 2016: RFP released
- May 31, 2016: Proposals due
- June 30, 2016: Students notified of proposal outcome
- Sept. 1, 2016: Projects start

**Questions?**
Research and budget questions should be directed to John Fear, deputy director of NCSG and WRRI, 919-515-9104, jmfear@ncsu.edu.
Submission questions should be directed to Debra Lynch, 919-515-9102, debra@ncsu.edu.