



Old Woman Creek Graduate Fellowship

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Office of Coastal Management is accepting applications for three graduate fellowships available through the Old Woman Creek (OWC) National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The OWC NERR is part of a state-federal partnership of 29 protected sites in the U.S. that promote stewardship of our nation's estuaries through integrated research and education programs (<http://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs>). The goal of these one-year fellowships is to support the next generation of leaders in estuarine and coastal ecosystem science, management, and education.

These fellowships will be for the 2021-2022 academic school year with specific start and end dates based on the students' academic program needs. Students, regardless of citizenship, who are enrolled or who have received an acceptance letter from a graduate degree-granting program or professional program at an accredited U.S. institution of higher education are eligible to receive a fellowship.

Applicants must demonstrate an interest in one of the following Great Lakes focus areas:

- ***Estuarine and coastal ecosystem research,***
- ***Stewardship of coastal habitats, or***
- ***Environmental education or training related to coastal issues.***

Each graduate student will have the opportunity to:

- Work with OWC NERR staff who will serve as mentors for each selected applicant.
- Present their work to OWC NERR partners and/or community members.
- Develop a science communication product (e.g., infographic, technical bulletin, informational video, or other educational/training material).

Application and Submission Information

Applications must include:

1. Signed letter of recommendation from the student's major professor.
2. A personal education and career statement emphasizing the applicant's ability and what the applicant expects to gain from the fellowship experience in the way of career development (1,000 words or less).
3. Description of how the fellowship budget will be used (see budget section on allowable costs).
4. Professional and academic curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages).
5. Clear, scanned copy of all official undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.
6. Listing of classes and/or plans for the 2021-2022 academic school year (not to exceed one page).

Submission Dates and Times

Applicants must submit materials to Janice.Kerns@dnr.ohio.gov by April 30th, 2021. Applications received after the April 30th deadline will not be considered.

Budget

The maximum amount of funding available for each fellowship is \$50,000 and must be expended between July 1st, 2021 and June 30th, 2022. Funds can be used to cover indirect costs, student tuition, stipend, academic program-related travel, minor equipment, and supplies. All funds will be administered through the fellow's academic institution through a cooperative agreement with the ODNR Office of Coastal Management.

Application Review Information

Evaluation Criteria – The evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

1. Academic record and statement of career goals and objectives of students (65% total):
 - a. Quality of the applicant's personal education and career goal statement (30%),
 - b. Strength of academic performance (15%), and
 - c. Interest and relevant experience in one on the Great Lakes focus areas mentioned in the introduction of this announcement (20%).
2. Recommendations and/or endorsements of student (15% total):
 - a. Content of the letter from the applicant's major professor.
3. Additional relevant experience (20% total) in coastal or aquatic-related fields, as well as:
 - a. Diversity of education,
 - b. Extra-curricular activities,
 - c. Honors and awards,
 - d. Interpersonal, written, and oral communications skills.

Review and Selection Process

Complete application packets will be reviewed and discussed by OWC NERR sector leads based on the evaluation criteria listed in the previous section. Following this review, an individual score will be provided by each of the sector leads. An average score will then be computed for each application. The top scoring qualified applicants will then be notified via email of their acceptance into the fellowship program.

Fellowship Contact

Email OWC NERR Reserve Manager, Dr. Janice Kerns, at Janice.Kerns@dnr.ohio.gov.

About Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve

OWC NERR strives to cultivate knowledge and actions that benefit Great Lakes coastal ecosystems, some of the world's most valuable resources. Located on the coast of Lake Erie, Old Woman Creek encompasses unique and diverse upland, wetland, and estuarine habitats. For more information about OWC NERR visit us at <http://coastal.ohiodnr.gov/>. For more information about the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, please visit <https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/about/>

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