



2023-2024 US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Announcement

DEADLINE JULY 17, 2023

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee members are pleased to announce the availability of up to three graduate scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. These scholarships support the aspiration of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to build their capacity to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources by employing people from the local communities.

Students with strong ties to these territories are eligible for scholarships that cover the cost of tuition and fees and some living expenses. The amount will be based on the university's estimated cost of attendance. Scholarship funds will be given directly to the university to cover tuition and fees before disbursement of the remaining amount to the student.

Funding for the 2024-2025 academic year will be provided based on proof of continued progress in the university program and maintenance of a 3.5 grade point average or above. The scholarship is for up to two years maximum (four semesters). If, for any reason, students do not complete their degree or other scholarship requirements (see below), the student or his/her guarantor will be responsible to repay the scholarship amount used up to that point to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarships may be used for completion of one of the following graduate degrees:

- i) MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH), or
- ii) MS or PhD in Marine Biology at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), or
- iii) MS in Biology at the University of Guam (UOG).

Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a U.S. citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI;
2. Have been accepted to attend or currently attending one of the graduate programs listed for the 2023-2024 academic year;
3. Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields; and
4. Commit to being employed for two years (one year for each scholarship year) with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), Guam Department of Agriculture (DoAg) or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) commencing within the year after completion of the graduate degree for which the scholarship was provided. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been used up to that point.

Eligibility Documents

1. Complete the accompanying scholarship application and a two-page essay on your reasons for pursuing your chosen degree. The essay should include a summary of your relevant experience, your long term career goals and your motivations to serve your home islands in the area of sustainable marine resource management;
2. Provide an official undergraduate college/university transcript and, if relevant, graduate-level university transcript; and
3. Submit two letters of recommendation from professors, employers and/or community leaders who can speak to your overall ability, likelihood of your success in a graduate program of study and commitment to working in a local fisheries-related agency for two years upon completion of the graduate degree.

A completed application and two letters of recommendation should be either mailed to: **Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813,** or emailed to info@wpcouncil.org.

Deadline to receive all application materials is MONDAY JULY 17, 2023.

If mailing your application, your recommendation letters should be included in sealed envelopes with the author's signature across the closing flap.

If emailing your application, the letters of recommendation should be sent directly from the author to info@wpcouncil.org. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the letters are received at the Council office by the deadline.

Preliminary decisions will be made by July 31, 2023. Preference will be given to students with an estimated two years until graduation. Final decision is contingent upon:

1. Signing an advising agreement to coordinate your planned university course schedule with an assigned advisor; and
2. Signing an agreement to work with the American Samoa DMWR, Guam DoAg or the CNMI DLNR in fisheries ecosystem-related work for one year for each scholarship year or to provide immediate reimbursement for the scholarship funds that have been provided.

Questions? Contact Amy Vandehey at info@wpcouncil.org or phone (808) 522-8220.



2023-2024 US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Application

Date: _____

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

College/university attended: _____

Location of college/university attended: _____

Current/past grade point average: _____

Extracurricular activities: _____

Current/previous employment: _____

University to which you have been accepted/currently attend: _____

Degree program in which you have been accepted/are currently enrolled: _____

Anticipated number of years until graduation: _____

Your connection to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI: _____

Parent/Guarantor name: _____

Parent/Guarantor address: _____

Parent/Guarantor phone: _____ Email: _____

On a separate page (or pages), write a two-page essay describing your reasons for pursuing the degree chosen for this scholarship. Special emphasis should be placed on the experiences that have prepared you for the intense work required and your motivations and inspirations to undertake the professional training that will allow you to effectively contribute to sustainable resource management back home.



Letter of Recommendation for 2023-2024 US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Applicant

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee have determined that it would significantly benefit the Territory of American Samoa, Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) if residents from their own islands were educated and employed to serve in the local fishery-related agencies. People who were raised in the islands have an intimate understanding of the traditional and unique cultures and societies and the integral part that fisheries plays in them. They have a vested ancestral interest and cultural commitment to ensure the health of the fishery resources and their use to sustain local communities. They are also more likely to remain as long-term residents and employees in the islands, unlike employees who are recruited from outside.

The Education Committee is comprised of representatives from the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Regional Office, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hawai'i Pacific University, American Samoa Community College, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, American Samoa, Guam and CNMI Departments of Education, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture and the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

The aspiration of the Council and the Education Committee is to build the capacity of American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources by employing people from the local communities.

Letters of recommendation (2 required) should be either mailed to **Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813**, or emailed to info@wpcouncil.org.

Deadline to receive all application materials is MONDAY JULY 17, 2023.

If the student is mailing his/her application, your recommendation letter should be included in a sealed envelope with your signature across the closing flap.

If the student is emailing his/her application, your recommendation letter should be emailed directly to info@wpcouncil.org. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the letters are received at the Council office by the deadline.

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In your own words, please explain why you think this student is deserving of a U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship.