



Marine Extension and
Georgia Sea Grant
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



2025 Research Traineeship Program Call for Applications

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Overview

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant invites undergraduate and graduate student applications for the 2025 Research Traineeship that begins on July 1, 2025, and ends on June 30, 2026. The application deadline is Feb. 3, 2025.

All Sea Grant awards are selected through a competitive merit review process that includes evaluation of proposals by technical experts, practitioners and community partners.

Program Goal and Objectives

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant prepares a responsible, diverse, and innovative scientific workforce by recruiting and supporting highly motivated undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing full-time research-based bachelors, master's or doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) or in STEM education. The Research Traineeship program provides one year of support for undergraduate or graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant research achievements in marine and coastal science. Research Trainees conduct high-quality research, understand the relevance and impact of their research on the real world, and gain professional skills. Trainees are expected to work as investigators (not simply a research technician or laboratory helper) on the proposed project. They undertake research under the supervision of two mentors – a faculty mentor and professional mentor. Research projects must align with the focus areas and goals outlined in Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan (<https://t.uga.edu/9EL>).

Eligibility

Prospective applicants must either be enrolled or prepared to enroll in a university, college, or non-profit academic institution of higher education accredited in, and having a campus located in Georgia, no later than fall of the year the award is accepted. Students may apply before enrolling in a degree-granting program, but all prospective Sea Grant Trainees must be affiliated with an institution of higher education in Georgia, at the time of acceptance through completion or termination of the Traineeship.

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive programs that serve people from different backgrounds and communities in Georgia. We encourage applicants of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital status, education levels, job classifications, veteran status types, income, and socioeconomic status to apply for this opportunity. Students at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Georgia are strongly encouraged to apply for this opportunity.

Funding Availability

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant expects to make 5-7 awards, pending availability of funding. Graduate applicants can request up to \$25,000, and undergraduate applicants can

request up to \$5,000 in stipend to cover expenses associated with a research project. Funding can be used to cover assistantship or stipends or time or costs associated with conducting the research project. The award does not cover tuition and fees.

Project/Award Period

Projects funded through this request for proposals will have a performance period of up to 12 months with a start date of July 1, 2025, and end on June 30, 2026.

Application Submission Process

All applicants must work closely with their faculty advisor to prepare and submit their application. The graduate student award will be made to the faculty advisor and the Sea Grant Trainee is expected to lead the application development and submission process. Undergraduate student awards are administered directly to the students in the form of two installments that are issued at the beginning and end of the research traineeship period.

Applicants must complete a one-time registration process on eSeaGrant to complete an application (www.eSeagrants.edu). Applications that are not submitted via eSeaGrant will not be considered for review.

All applications go through an administrative review to ensure completeness and conformance with submission requirements. Adherence to guidelines is strictly enforced. Any application that does not adhere to the instructions in this request may be returned without review.

Application Information

Applications must be single-spaced with 1-inch margins, written in 12 point, Times New Roman, and must contain the following items, arranged in the order listed, and strictly adhere to the specified page limitations. Figures and tables are included in the applicable page limitations. Please include page numbers. No other items, appendices, or supplementary documents are permitted for applications.

Applications must include the following components.

- I. **Applicant and Mentor Information:** Each applicant should submit a 2-page resume that includes the applicant's educational background, professional experiences, leadership and volunteer activities and any awards or honors received. Names and contact information (email address and phone #) of faculty and professional mentors are also required.
- II. **Career and Professional Development Goal Statement:** The statement should be limited to 2-pages in length. It should describe the applicant's educational and professional goals. The statement should highlight how applicant's academic preparation and professional experiences have contributed to their long-term career goals and clearly explain how the Research Traineeship will help advance those goals.

- III. **Project Narrative:** The project description should be limited to 2-pages in length. It should provide a clear statement of work that will be undertaken including research needs, goals and objectives, design of the research project, clear methodology, expected outcomes, relevance to Sea Grant's Strategic Plan, and relation to the current state of knowledge.
- IV. **References:** References are required and should include the name of all authors (in the same sequence that they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. The list of references should be limited to 1-page.
- V. **Budget Narrative:** In order to allow reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of all costs, applications should include a detailed budget table and a budget justification. The budget table should include all items for which funding is requested. These items should be relevant to the applicant's research project. Please explain each category of budget and provide a narrative justifying expenditures for each budget category. The budget narrative should describe, by category of expenditure, the total funding needed to accomplish the objectives described in the project description for the entire award period. The budget narrative should also provide, to the extent possible, detailed information on travel, including costs, a description of anticipated travel, destinations, number of travelers, and a justification of how the requested travel is directly relevant to the successful completion of the project. Budget narrative (includes budget table and justification) should not exceed 2-pages.
- VI. **Letters of Commitment:** Applicants should include two letters of commitment - one from the faculty mentor who will oversee the trainee's research project, and another from a professional mentor who will ensure the societal relevance of the trainee's research. Both mentors are expected to provide professional development and networking opportunities to the Sea Grant Research Trainee. The letter should describe the mentor's role, and how they plan to guide the Sea Grant Research Trainee in their academic and professional journey. Each letter should be limited to 2-pages.
- VII. **Undergraduate and Graduate School Transcripts:** Students should combine their undergraduate and graduate school transcripts into a single PDF and upload on the eSeaGrant website. Unofficial copies are acceptable but must clearly indicate the name of the institution, degree program, courses taken and GPAs. Transcripts should be included in reverse chronological order (i.e., newest transcripts first).

The application process will include a voluntary demographics questionnaire which Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant is required to administer on behalf of Sea Grant's home agency -- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA is interested in learning more about who applies to their funding opportunities. Questionnaire answers will not be provided to reviewers, or otherwise influence the outcome of this competition.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are reviewed on their demonstrated potential to advance knowledge and make substantial contributions throughout their research and professional careers. Reviewers are asked to assess applications using a holistic, comprehensive approach, considering academic preparation, leadership, outreach, education, or service, future plans, and applicant's competencies, experiences and attributes.

Timeline

December 10, 2024	Call for Applications Opens
February 3, 2025	Applications Due
June 1, 2025	Decisions Notified
July 1, 2025	Traineeship Begins
November (dates TBD)	Student Onboarding
June 30, 2026	Traineeship Ends

Program Contacts

For questions about Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, please contact director Mark Risse at mrisse@uga.edu

For questions about the Research Traineeship program, please contact associate director Mona Behl at mbehl@uga.edu

For questions about eSeaGrant, please contact reporting and evaluation coordinator Brendan Dula Brendan.Dula@uga.edu