The Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center’s (PI-CASC’s) Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program is designed to provide interested undergraduates the opportunity to gain valuable research experience, improve their skills in climate science, and expand their knowledge of environmental issues in Hawaiʻi and Guam, working with a faculty mentor on a climate-related research project that is aligned with the mission of the PI-CASC University Consortium. That mission aims to provide the best science available on climate change and other landscape-scale stressors that are impacting natural and cultural resources across the Pacific Basin. Depending on their location, students who are accepted will be paired with an available researcher at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) at Mānoa, UH Hilo, or the University of Guam (UOG) whose field of expertise and ongoing research in climate science and/or adaptation complements the expressed interests of the student.

Part of a network of eight regional centers established by the US Department of the Interior, PI-CASC is run as a partnership between the US Geological Survey and a regionally-based university consortium led by UH Mānoa with UH Hilo and the UOG as members. Research project topics that PI-CASC has funded stretch from the mountains to the sea, from forests to fishponds, from rainfall to streamflow, from shorelines to sea levels. The Center also supports building capacity for the future, creating opportunities for students from all ethnic and academic backgrounds to gain important tools for conducting science and knowledge co-production for future research, management, and/or policymaking.

**Student Eligibility for SURF**

This fellowship is open to any undergraduate freshman, sophomore, or junior currently enrolled at any of the UH system campuses or UOG, or currently enrolled at another accredited four-year institution but graduated from a high school in Hawaiʻi or Guam. In all its programs, PI-CASC is committed to increasing the diversity of the workforce in Hawaiʻi and the Pacific and embraces individuals of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, job classifications, veteran status types, and income and socioeconomic status types. All are encouraged to apply.
Program Details and Expectations for Mentors

• The SURF Program runs from June 7 to August 13 (10 weeks).
• Mentors should identify and describe a project (or a defined portion of a larger endeavor) in their science area appropriate for an undergraduate to tackle within 10 weeks.
• Mentors should plan to incorporate the fellow into their lab/work area and commit to supporting the fellow’s work and participation for the entire program duration.
• Mentors should arrange for regular interactions with the fellow for problem solving and project supervision, and oversee/approve the final project write-up and oral presentation.
• Mentors should plan to attend the orientation (June 7), the final SURF Symposium (August 12), and one of the student professional development workshops (July 1, July 22).
• Mentors and students will be paired based on shared research interests and/or through identification of a particular student by a mentor in the application (see Application Process, below). Mentors will review PI-CASC’s recommended pairing before the student is informed.
• A stipend of $6000 will be provided to the fellow in support of 10 weeks of summer research training.

Application Process for Mentors

Researchers interested in mentoring a SURF student should write a short description (~300 words) detailing an available project and the experience the student will have working with them and/or their group. Send to Dr. Rachel Lentz at rlentz@hawaii.edu by February 19, 2021.

If a potential mentor already has an understanding with a possible fellow for summer work, please indicate in both the mentor and student applications that the pairing is pre-arranged, and we will work to accommodate you both.

Contacts & Notification

For any questions about the SURF program, please contact Dr. Rachel Lentz at rlentz@hawaii.edu. Notification of acceptance and student/mentor pairing will be emailed between March 31, 2021.