



Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center's (PI-CASC's) Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program provides promising undergraduates the opportunity to gain valuable research experience, improve their skills in climate science, and expand their knowledge of environmental issues in Hawai'i and Guam, working with a faculty mentor on a climate-related research project that aligns with PI-CASC University Consortium objectives. PI-CASC is committed to providing 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 a faculty 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 nine regional centers established by the US Department of the Interior, PI-CASC is 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. In addition to research, PI-CASC 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.

In all its programs, PI-CASC endorses a diverse workforce in Hawai'i 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 and intersectionalities.

Student Eligibility for SURF

This fellowship is open to any undergraduate currently enrolled at any of the UH system campuses or UOG, or currently enrolled at another accredited four-year institution but attended a high school in Hawai'i or Guam. All are encouraged to apply.

Program Details and Expectations for Students

- The SURF Program runs from June 6 to August 12 (10 weeks).
- Fellows must commit to working full-time (40 hours per week) for the entire program.
- Fellows must attend an orientation (June 6) and 2 professional development workshops (dates TBD).
- Fellows are required to write a short report detailing their summer accomplishments and any planned future applications of the work (further projects, publications, etc.).
- Fellows are required to present their research at a final SURF Symposium (August 11).
- A stipend of \$6000 will be provided in support of 10 weeks of summer research training.

Application Process for Students

To apply for this opportunity, please collect the following and *submit to Dr. Rachel Lentz at rlentz@hawaii.edu (preferably as a single PDF) by 5 pm, February 18, 2022:*

- Cover sheet with
 - name, email, address (campus, summer, or permanent), phone number
 - 3 general areas of interest in climate science, related to natural or cultural resources (e.g. sea-level rise, changes in precipitation/drought, changing forests and watersheds, threats to native species, coastal hazards adaptation, vegetation adaptation, coastal ecosystems, biocultural adaptation, indigenous agroforestry and aquaculture, island hydrology, ridge-to-reef ecosystems, water quality, ecosystem services, coral reef health, ocean acidification, biodiversity, climatology, microbiology, etc.)
- Current resume
- Unofficial college transcript (If freshman, please supply an unofficial high school transcript.)
- 500-word essay on the following topic:
 - What inspired your interest in climate science and adaptation? How would this research fellowship contribute to your current major or planned field of study?
- Letter of recommendation from a faculty member or mentor familiar with your abilities (This can be sent separately and directly to Dr. Lentz from the recommender.)

Virtual Information Session

SURF organizers will host a virtual information session at 2 pm on February 3, 2022 to reiterate details of the program and answer questions from prospective students and mentors. [Register](#) for the event to receive zoom connection information.

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 by April 15, 2022.