



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, to the extent possible, 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 Mentors

- The SURF Program runs from June 5 to August 11 (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 oral presentation.
- **Mentors should attend the orientation (June 5) and the final symposium (August 10).**
- Mentors and students will be paired based on shared research interests in climate science. Student applicants are asked to identify three areas of interest 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.). Mentors will be able to review PI-CASC's recommended pairing before the student is informed. Alternatively, student/mentor pairs can apply in parallel (*see Application Process, below*).
- A stipend of \$6000 will be provided by PI-CASC to the fellow in support of 10 weeks of summer research training.

Application Process for Mentors

Faculty researchers interested in mentoring a SURF student should write a short description (~300 words) detailing an available project, its specific connections to climate adaptation science, and the specific component of the project that the student will be working on.

Submit to Dr. Rachel Lentz at rlentz@hawaii.edu by 5 pm February 24, 2023.

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, if the project and student pass the application process.

Virtual Information Session

SURF organizers will host a virtual information session at 2 pm on February 3, 2023 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, 2023.