



Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center (PI-CASC) and the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai‘i Sea Grant) co-host a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program to provide promising undergraduates the opportunity to gain valuable research experience, improve their skills in actionable climate and ocean sciences, and expand their knowledge of environmental issues in Hawai‘i and across the Pacific region. Selected fellows are matched with a mentor--depending on their location, either a faculty researcher or extension agent at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) at Mānoa, UH Hilo, or the University of Guam (UOG), or a mentor from a federal research center (e.g., USGS, NOAA, EPA) --whose field of expertise and ongoing research complements to the extent possible the expressed interests of the student, and aligns with PI-CASC and/or Hawai‘i Sea Grant objectives.

PI-CASC and Hawai‘i Sea Grant

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 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.

Hawai‘i Sea Grant conducts an innovative program of research, outreach, and education services toward the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region, and nation, serving those who live, work, and recreate in coastal communities in Hawai‘i and the Pacific Region. Hawai‘i Sea Grant is one of 34 Sea Grant College Programs nationwide with core funding provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that, as a network, promote unbiased, evidenced-based understanding, conservation, and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. Funded activities focus in four areas: healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development.

Both programs endorse a diverse workforce in Hawai‘i and the Pacific and embrace 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 two- or 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 2024 SURF Program will run from June 3 to August 9 (10 weeks).
- Fellows must commit to working full-time (40 hours per week) for the entire program.
- Fellows must attend an orientation (June 3) and 2 professional development workshops (dates TBD).
- Fellows are required to present their research at a final SURF Symposium (August 8).
- Fellows are required to write a short reflection on their summer accomplishments and experiences.
- A stipend of \$7000 (\$17.50/hr) 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 information and *submit through the [eSeaGrant](#) platform by 5 pm, February 29, 2024*:

- Name, email, address (campus, summer, or permanent), phone number
- Identify two areas of interest from a supplied list, which will define participation in the PI-CASC or Hawai'i Sea Grant tracks of the program
- 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 adaptation or ocean science? 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 will be submitted separately and directly from the recommender.)

See page 3 for more detailed instructions on submitting through eSeaGrant.

Virtual Information Session

SURF organizers will host a virtual information session at 2 pm on January 26, 2024 to reiterate details of the program, introduce the eSeaGrant platform, 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 or applying, please contact Dr. Rachel Lentz at rlentz@hawaii.edu. Notification of acceptance and student/mentor pairing will be emailed by about April 15, 2024.

Applying for 2024 SURF using the eSeaGrant platform

- 1) Go to [eSeaGrant](#)
- 2) Create an account and log in
- 3) From the listed Funding Opportunities, find “2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (Fellowship Application).” Click on the ADD button to begin an application. (If you save and come back, you will have the option to EDIT, instead.)
- 4) In the left column of the screen, there should be two required sections: “2024 SURF Application” and “2024 SURF Letter of Recommendation.” (The red dots imply they are not completed. These will turn green once you complete all the required information and click the “Mark as complete” box at the top of each form.)
- 5) For the 2024 SURF Application form
 - a. Required materials are listed at the top. Follow the form and input the information as asked.
 - b. Résumé, transcripts, and essay can be uploaded from your computer in either pdf or Word file format.
 - c. Be sure to click the SAVE button when you are done with your session.
- 6) For the SURF Letter of Recommendation form
 - a. Select “Request Document” to begin the process, and then enter the contact information requested for your choice of letter writer. Finish by clicking “Send request.” (Note: There is an option to upload a file, if there is information you want to share with your recommender, but you can ignore that otherwise.)
 - b. Our system will contact them, and they will be asked to upload a letter to eSeaGrant. You should receive a notification when that step has occurred.
- 7) Check the Submission Preview (also in the left column) and review your materials. When you are satisfied, click SUBMIT at the top. Please note: You will be able to edit and re-submit your materials up until the deadline.