



Graduate Fellowship Overview and Information

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)

Award Announcement: July 2023 • Award Distribution: July 2023

Overview of the NWRI Fellowship Program

National Water Research Institute (NWRI) awards funding to support graduate student research related to water science and technology, water resources management, and water policy and regulations.

Funded research must support NWRI's mission to advance water resources in science, policy, and innovation. Research areas include drinking water treatment process engineering, design, and planning; physical, chemical, biological, or health sciences; environmental and natural resources sciences; political sciences and public policy; water resource economics; and regulatory issues.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time in an accredited graduate program in the United States. Funds are provided by the NWRI Fellowship Funding Partners and NWRI Member Agencies.

NWRI Fellowship Funding Partners

American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA)

The mission of AMTA is to promote and advance the application of membrane technology to create safe, affordable, and reliable water supplies, and to treat municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater for beneficial reuse. [Click here](#) to learn more about AMTA.

Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC)

SCSC is a coalition of water and wastewater agencies in Southern California dedicated to managing salinity in our water supplies. They support research to address the critical need to remove salt from water supplies and preserve water resources. [Click here](#) to learn more.



NWRI Member Agencies

NWRI Member Agencies are water and wastewater utilities in Southern California that support our mission to collaborate with utilities, regulators, and researchers in innovative ways to help develop new, healthy sources of drinking water.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Irvine Ranch Water District

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Orange County Sanitation District

Orange County Water District

Fellowships Offered in 2023

NWRI Member Agency Graduate Fellowship: \$5,000

Research must be related to developing and/or enhancing drinking water supplies and water resources in general. Research topics may include new treatment technologies, improvements to existing treatment and management technologies, sustainability including treatment energy efficiency, water policy and regulation, and natural resource economics.

NWRI-AMTA Graduate Fellowships for Membrane Technology: \$10,000

Research must be related to the advancement of membrane technology in the water, wastewater, or water reuse industries, and must be consistent with AMTA's mission to solve water supply and quality issues using membrane technology. Research topics may include membrane bioreactors, fouling and scaling control, efficiency (removal and recovery energy use), pretreatment processes, and membrane materials. AMTA fellowship recipients are required to attend the annual AMTA/AWWA Membrane Technology Conference.

NWRI-Southern California Salinity Coalition Graduate Fellowship: \$10,000

The student must be enrolled at an accredited college or university in Southern California. Research must address the critical need to remove or reduce salts from water supplies and to preserve water resources in Southern California. Research topics may include concentrate management, institutional and regulatory/policy issues, economic analysis, and innovative treatment technologies.

Note: NWRI fellowship recipients will attend NWRI's Annual Clarke Prize Award Ceremony on October 21, 2023, in Irvine, California. NWRI fellows will give a poster presentation of their research project. (AMTA and SCSC fellows do not attend.)



NWRI 2023-24 Graduate Fellowship Full Application Instructions

Deadline: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)

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Application Elements

- 1. NWRI Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist.** Complete and return with your application submittal.
- 2. Overview and Original Research Proposal (max 2,000 words and five pages).** Use 11-point Calibri, Times New Roman or a similar font, with double line spacing. Include an [overview](#) of your research project (maximum 400 words). Include answers to the following questions:

- What do you expect to accomplish with this project?
- How will this project serve the greater good?

Share your project [proposal](#) (maximum 1,300 words). Focus on *higher-level concepts* and the critical needs your research addresses, rather than on technical details and data results. Those reviewing your proposal will have expertise in water science, but likely no knowledge of your specific topic. You may include figures. Include the following information:

- Project title
- Hypothesis
- Goals and objectives
- The approach or plan for your project
- A timetable for the completion of your project
- Evidence for the originality of your research
- Explanation of the needs your research addresses



Include some [background](#) about yourself (maximum 300 words) and answer the following question:

- Why are you interested in this research topic?

3. Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume (one page maximum)

Include relevant professional experience, volunteer service, internships, research and teaching assistant positions, extracurricular research projects, and the like. For conference presentations, provide the name, date, and location of the conference, along with co–authors and their affiliations. If available, list your top five publications and co–authors.

4. Letter of Support from your faculty advisor with signature (two pages maximum)

Address the letter of support to the NWRI Fellowship Coordinator. Your advisor can either email a PDF of the letter to you to include with your application or email it directly to tmanzon@nwri-usa.org with the subject line: Fellowship Support Letter [YOUR NAME].

If your advisor gives the letter directly to you, please cc: your advisor when you submit your application so that they know you have submitted their letter to NWRI.

Advisors should address the following items in the letter (two pages maximum):

- Originality and technical merit of the proposed research
- Applicant’s preparation and prospects for successful completion of the project
- Resources and support the applicant and their research are receiving, including:
 - Facilities, personnel, and equipment available
 - Financial support and institutional commitment by the University
 - Any other awards or fellowships that the student has or will receive to support this research. Please note that having additional fellowships or scholarships does not affect eligibility to receive and NWRI Fellowship
 - Description of how NWRI Fellowship funding will be leveraged. Note that a Fellowship from NWRI is intended to enhance the student’s current resources and support. It is not intended to replace existing funding or affect eligibility for existing funding.

NWRI has a long–standing policy that research office/indirect costs **MAY NOT** be charged against the Fellowship award. The NWRI Fellowship Coordinator will work with the appropriate university offices of awardees if necessary.



Application Submission Process

All full applications must arrive as a single PDF by email (to: tmanzon@nwri-usa.org) on or before 11:59 PM Pacific Time on **May 31, 2023**.

Email the following items to NWRI as a single PDF in the following order:

- NWRI Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist
- Overview / Research Proposal (max 2000 words, including references)
- CV/Resume (1 page maximum)
- *Letter of Support from Faculty Advisor (2 pages maximum)
- Label the file with your name using the format “Last Name_First Name”

*If your advisor prefers to submit the letter directly to NWRI, ask her/him to email a PDF to tmanzon@nwri-usa.org with the subject line: Fellowship Support Letter [YOUR NAME].

Format your email message as follows:

To: tmanzon@nwri-usa.org

From: your email address

Subject: 2023–24 Fellowship Application [Your Name]

Include your name, email address, and phone number in the body of your email message.

Fellowship Terms and Requirements

Fellowship awardees will be announced in July of 2023. Those selected to receive a fellowship will be notified by email by the project coordinator. Those not selected will also be notified by email.

All awardees will receive a follow-up letter via email outlining the terms and conditions of the fellowship. Award money will be sent directly to the awardee’s university. We will work with awardees and their advisors to determine the best way to disburse funds.

Selections and awards made by NWRI shall be final.



Fellows must meet the following requirements:

The Fellow must be continuously enrolled as a full-time graduate student at an accredited college or university in the United States.

Fellows will document their progress by providing a final progress report to NWRI at the end of the fellowship period in May 2024. The progress reports will be posted to the NWRI website and shared with the NWRI e-newsletter recipients, NWRI Partners, Member Agencies, and Corporate Associates.

Note: NWRI fellowship recipients will attend NWRI’s Annual Clarke Prize Award Ceremony on October 21, 2023, in Irvine, California. NWRI fellows will give a poster presentation of their research project. (AMTA and SCSC fellows do not attend.)

Fellows may also be asked to participate in other events sponsored by NWRI and partners. For example, **AMTA fellows must attend the annual AMTA/AWWA Membrane Technology Conference, and SCSC fellows will give a presentation to the SCSC Board of Directors.**

For more information, visit <https://www.nwri-usa.org/fellowship>

Contact:

National Water Research Institute
Tianna Manzon, Research Project Coordinator

tmanzon@nwri-usa.org



2023–2024 Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist

Applicant Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Academic Background

Current School: _____
Department: _____
Major: _____
Graduation Date mo/yr: _____ Current GPA: _____

Current Program Year: *(Please select one)*

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Year 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Year 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Year 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Year 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Year 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> PhD Year 4+ |

Research Project Topic (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Treatment Technologies | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy and Regulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Science/Exploratory Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycled Water/Water Reuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Treatments | <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Capture and Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decentralized Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Treatment/TMDLs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desalination (seawater + brackish) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability/Integrated Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfection Processes | <input type="checkbox"/> Water and Energy Nexus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics (water + wastewater) | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membrane Technologies | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Project Start Date: _____ Project End Date: _____

Project Title: _____

Advisor Information. If you have more than one advisor, list your primary advisor only.

Advisor
Name/Title: _____
Department: _____
University: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
How long have they been your advisor? _____ Since (mon/yr): _____

Fellowship Applied For. Check all that apply.

- NWRI Member Agency Fellowship
 NWRI-AMTA Membrane Technology Fellowship
 NWRI-Southern California Salinity Coalition Fellowship

Application Checklist

- NWRI Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist (this document)
 Overview/Original Research Proposal (max 2000 words)
 CV/Resume (one page maximum)
 Letter of Support from Advisor (two pages maximum)

Application Submission Process

- Combine all items into a single PDF and name the file as your “Last Name_First Name”
- Email the PDF to tmanzon@nwri-usa.org before 11:59 PM (Pacific) on May 31, 2023.

*If your advisor prefers to submit the letter of support directly to NWRI, ask her/him to email a PDF before 11:59 pm (PST) on May 31, 2023, to tmanzon@nwri-usa.org with the subject line: Fellowship Support Letter [YOUR NAME]

Contact:

tmanzon@nwri-usa.org

Tianna Manzon, Research Project Coordinator

For more information, visit

<https://www.nwri-usa.org/fellowship>

[Summary of Goals/Original Research Proposal Template](#)

Project Overview (Maximum 400 Words)

Project Proposal (Maximum 1,300 Words)

Project Title:

Hypothesis:

Proposal:

Applicant Background (Maximum 300 Words)

Fellowship FAQs –

Is the fellowship open to incoming graduate students? I will be enrolled this year, but not by the application deadline.

No, you must be enrolled in a qualifying graduate program before the application deadline to be eligible for a fellowship.

Is this fellowship open to students in fields other than science and technology?

Yes! This fellowship program is open to all graduate students who research water, whether that research is in science, technology, policy, or economics—and beyond. Carefully read the directions for each fellowship you apply for, as each carries its own qualification requirements.

I have too many publications to fit within the page limit. What do I do?

Prioritize your publications and include the most relevant publications within your list. Do not exceed the page limit.

Can I use figures in my research proposal?

Yes, you may use figures in your research proposal; however, be sure to stay within the page limit.

Is this fellowship program open to graduate students attending schools outside of the United States?

No. To qualify for this fellowship program, you must attend a United–States based graduate program.

Is this fellowship program open to international students?

Yes. This fellowship program is open to international students who are enrolled in a United States–based graduate program. There is no US citizenship requirement.

What is the minimum font size I can use in my application?

The minimum is an 11–point font.

What can I use the funds for if I am awarded a fellowship?

Fellowship awards are intended to enhance your resources, not to replace existing funding, therefore:

- The award may be used as a stipend or to pay for supplies, equipment, travel for conferences and/or field work, training, and other expenses for your research project.
- The use of the funding will be determined by you and your advisor.
- The fellowship funding cannot be used for overhead costs charged by your university (our policy).

I sent in my application, but my research is changing (to a different project/to a different advisor/etc.). What do I do?

Please contact Tianna Manzon at NWRI, tmanzon@nwri-usa.org, as soon as possible about changes to your research project. It's important that we know about such changes, as each fellowship has specific requirements. Changes to your research project may change your eligibility for a specific fellowship award.

If I am awarded a fellowship, is there a deadline by which the funds must be spent?

No, there is no deadline for spending funds.

Can you give me some tips on my application?

Sure!

- Be sure your advisor sends in your letter of support by the application deadline. You may need to remind them to send in your letter of support.
- Make sure your pdf files open offline in Adobe Acrobat, not just in a web browser. If the file will not open for us when we download it and/or the file displays as blank, we cannot process your application. The same goes for corrupted files; if one of your files is corrupted and we cannot open it, we cannot process your application. Check your files before sending them in.
- Carefully read and follow the directions for preparing and submitting your application. Be sure to stay within any word count or page limits.

I've sent my application in on a Friday night. It is Saturday morning and I have not received an "Application Received" message yet. What do I do?

We work Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding federal holidays. If you submit your application outside of business hours, you will receive a confirmation message on the next business day.

Have a question about your specific project or application? Feel free to email the fellowship coordinator with your question at tmanzon@nwri-usa.org