



## NWRI Graduate Fellowship Overview

**Deadline: Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)**

**Award Announcement: June 2025**

---

### About NWRI Fellowship Program

National Water Research Institute (NWRI) is a 501c3 nonprofit that was founded in 1991. NWRI collaborates with water utilities, regulators, and researchers in innovative ways to help develop new, healthy, and sustainable sources of drinking water.

In support of this mission, NWRI awards funding to support graduate student research on:

- The application of membrane technology to create safe water and to treat wastewater for beneficial reuse.
- The development of effective, economical technologies to remove salt from water supplies.

Funds are provided by NWRI and its Fellowship Funding Partners.

#### 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.

##### 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.



## Fellowships Offered in 2025

### **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 water quality issues using membrane technology. Research topics may include membrane bioreactors, fouling and scaling control, efficiency (contaminant removal, water recovery, and/or energy), pretreatment processes, and membrane materials. AMTA fellowship recipients are required to use part of the proceeds from the fellowship award 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.



## NWRI 2025-26 Graduate Fellowship Application Instructions

**Deadline: Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time)**

Award Announcement: June 2025

---

### Application Elements

1. **NWRI Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist (1 page).** Complete and return with your application submittal.
2. **Overview and Research Description (maximum 5 pages).** This section must be no more than 2,500 words total. Use 11-point Calibri or Times New Roman, with double line spacing. Elements of the proposal include:
  - **An overview of your research project (approx. 500 words).** Include answers to the following questions:
    - What do you expect to accomplish with this project?
    - How will this project serve the greater good?
  - **Your project description (approx. 1,500 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 knowledge about water science but may not have expertise in your specific topic. You may include figures. Include the following elements in your proposal:
    - 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
3. **Background Information about yourself (approx. 500 words).** Explain why you are interested in this research topic and what it means to you.



## NWRI 2025–26 Graduate Fellowship Application Instructions

### **4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume (maximum 1 page).**

Include relevant professional experience, volunteer service, internships, research and teaching assistant positions, and extracurricular research projects. 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.

### **5. Letter of Support from your faculty advisor with signature (maximum 2 pages).**

Your Advisor's letter should address:

- A. The proposed research's originality, technical merit, the potential to contribute to the field's future
- B. Applicant's preparation and prospects for successful completion of the project
- C. Applicant's positive qualities or accomplishments that are relevant to the fellowship.

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 the fellowship coordinator.

**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.**

**If your advisor prefers to submit the letter directly to NWRI, your advisor can email the PDF to [tmanzon@nwri-usa.org](mailto:tmanzon@nwri-usa.org) with the subject line: Fellowship Support Letter [YOUR NAME].**



## Fellowship Terms

### Applicant Requirements

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

### Application Review

Application reviewers reserve the right to disqualify or reject applications that have failed to follow the submission guidelines.

### Award Process

Email notifications regarding application status will be sent out in June of 2025. Applicants will receive notification indicating whether they have been selected for an award or if their application has been declined.

All awardees will receive a 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.

### Awardee Requirements

Awarded Fellows are required to report on their project, and may select one of the following two reporting methods to document their progress:

- Report Method 1: One written final report documenting your project's goals and progress/conclusions from start to finish, due at the end of the Spring 2026 term.
- Report Method 2: One two-minute introductory video documenting your project's goals due after funds are awarded and one five-minute video documenting your progress/conclusions, due at the end of the Spring 2026 term.

Fellows may also be asked to participate in other events sponsored by NWRI and its partners. AMTA Fellows attend the annual AMTA/AWWA Membrane Technology Conference using funds from the fellowship award. SCSC Fellows will give a presentation, either remotely or in person, to the SCSC Board of Directors.

[NWRI Graduate Fellowship Application](#)



# Application Submission Process

## Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted via email by **11:59 PM** Pacific Time on **Wednesday April 16, 2025**, to the NWRI Fellowship Coordinator at [tmanzon@nwri-usa.org](mailto:tmanzon@nwri-usa.org)

All successfully submitted applications will receive a confirmation email.

## Submission Format

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file, using the following file naming convention:

### Last Name\_First Name

The PDF must include the following items, listed in the order below:

- NWRI Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist
- Overview / Research Proposal (maximum 5 pages)
- CV/Resume (maximum 1 page)
- \*Letter of Support (maximum 2 pages) \*unless submitted by Advisor\*

## Submission Email

Include your name, email address, and phone number in the body of your email message. Format your email's subject line as: **2025–26 Fellowship Application [Your Name]**

## Contact

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

National Water Research Institute  
Tianna Manzon, Research Project Coordinator

[tmanzon@nwri-usa.org](mailto:tmanzon@nwri-usa.org)



## Frequently Asked Questions –

**1. 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 based in the United States before the application deadline to be eligible for a fellowship. Incoming students who are not eligible for this year's program are welcome to apply next year.

**2. 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. Carefully read the directions for each fellowship you apply for as each carries its own qualification requirements.

**3. 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.

**4. Can I use figures in my research proposal?**

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

**5. 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. Students who are studying abroad through a program affiliated with a United States–based school are eligible to apply.

**6. Do I have to be a United States citizen to apply?**

No. This fellowship program is also open to international students enrolled in United States–based graduate programs and there is no citizenship requirement.

**7. I sent in my application, but my research is changing. What do I do?**

Contact the Fellowship Coordinator as soon as possible. It's important that we know about your project changes as each fellowship has specific requirements. Changes to your research project may affect your eligibility for a specific fellowship award.



**8. 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.

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

Fellowship awards are intended to enhance your resources, not 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).

**10. If my application is declined, will I be provided with any feedback?**

No. Unfortunately, due to the high number of applicants, we are unable to provide any feedback on declined applications.





## 2025–2026 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-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 "Last Name\_First Name"
- Email the PDF to [tmanzon@nwri-usa.org](mailto:tmanzon@nwri-usa.org) before **11:59 PM** (Pacific) on **April 16, 2025**.

\*If your advisor prefers to submit the letter of support directly to NWRI, ask them to email a PDF before **11:59 PM** (Pacific) on **April 16, 2025**, to [tmanzon@nwri-usa.org](mailto:tmanzon@nwri-usa.org) with the subject line: Fellowship Support Letter [YOUR NAME]

### **Contact:**

[tmanzon@nwri-usa.org](mailto:tmanzon@nwri-usa.org)

Tianna Manzoni, Research Project Coordinator

For more information, visit

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