



Center for Coastal Studies Awards for Graduate Student Research and/or Travel

The Center for Coastal Studies offers several research and travel awards to support the scholastic achievements of graduate degree students in coastal and marine science fields. Individuals and their families have endowed these awards in the names of local scientists and/or former students to support the research of graduate students entering the fields of coastal (including watersheds) and marine sciences. Awards are competitive and based on academic achievements, interests, and ability as well as financial need. It is an honor to be selected as a recipient for these awards. The Center for Coastal Studies is proud to offer these opportunities to deserving students. **The majority of awards are limited to students pursuing MS degrees in the Biology, Environmental Science, Coastal and Marine Systems Science, Fisheries and Mariculture, or Marine Biology programs.** Two of the endowments are available to provide awards to Ph.D. students in Marine Biology or Coastal and Marine System Science programs whose research is focused on coral reefs or coastal, marine, and environmental sciences with an emphasis on watershed resources, processes, and policies. Students may receive a maximum of two awards during their matriculation. Award monies are administered through the Center for Coastal Studies and **MUST BE SPENT BY AUGUST 15th** of each year. Unused funds are returned to the award funds. For more information about the source of the award funds, and the scientists and former students who are honored by these awards <http://ccs.tamucc.edu/programs/scholarships-fellowships/>

Part I. Eligibility Requirements:

1. Currently enrolled as **graduate** degree student taking at least 9 hrs at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Department of Physical & Environmental Sciences or Department of Life Sciences
2. Not currently on scholastic probation or with other official holds on academic records

Part II. Application Process

Students interested in applying for an award must complete an application package. Please follow the instructions in Part III below to submit your application.

All applications, including supporting materials, **must be combined into a single file** and be received by **5 PM on October 1.** The file **MUST** be submitted electronically to:

Dr. Kim Withers, Chair
CCS Student Research Award Selection Committee
Kim.Withers@tamucc.edu

Part III. Application Instructions

Please pay attention to the details of these instructions and follow them to the letter for the strongest possible application. You should submit a single file (*pdf or Word) containing all required documents that is named under this convention: Last Name_First Name.

1. Write a cover letter containing your contact information and a brief statement of your overall goals/objectives, financial need, and how the award will help you meet your research goals. If you have already received CCS award funds, please provide a statement of how those funds were used. **Please also list your advisor and the members of your graduate advisory committee.**
2. Attach a brief (typed, up to 2 pages, single-spaced) **research prospectus** describing your graduate project. It should include background and relevance, objectives/hypotheses, approach, and the expected benefits of the study.
3. If you are applying to obtain funding for travel to a scientific meeting to present a paper, provide a copy of the abstract that was accepted and the organization, dates and location of the meeting. A copy of the “Call for Papers” or the website advertising the meeting is acceptable. If you have not already submitted an abstract, provide a statement of your intention to submit an abstract and the readiness of your research for presentation. **A draft abstract will strengthen your application.**
4. Provide a **detailed budget for the request and budget justification that explains how CCS award funds will be used to enhance the project** (typed, single-spaced). Also show other sources of funding and how they will be used for the project. If you have applied to other funding sources, provide a list of those sources and the amounts for which you have applied.
5. Provide **transcripts** (unofficial are acceptable, and the transcript from TAMUCC should show your current course load) and a **CV or resume** as supporting materials as well as the names, phone numbers and email addresses of three references.