



ICRS Graduate Fellowships

Award limit: \$2,500 per award

The International Coral Reef Society (ICRS) is pleased to announce six (6) Graduate Fellowships for Coral Reef Ecosystem Research.

These Fellowships provide funding of up to \$2,500 per award that may be used for travel, accommodation away from home, fieldwork, and/or laboratory analyses to be undertaken elsewhere, related to research the results of which are to be included within a degree thesis. The Fellowships are available to anyone who is a student (or full) member of the ICRS, and is in the first or second year or in the early part of the third year (or at the equivalent stage if part-time) of a post-graduate degree (e.g. PhD, MPhil or MSc) program at an accredited college or university. Four Fellowships are available to applicants from any country worldwide. Two further Fellowships are reserved for students coming from a developing country that possesses coral reefs.

Background to the Fellowships

Coral reef ecosystems around the world continue to be threatened by direct Anthropogenic stresses and climate change. Scientists and reef managers are increasingly working together to develop sound management strategies that are based on rigorous science. There remain, however, many unanswered questions about reef disturbances and reef resilience, climate change and adaptation, reef connectivity, marine protected areas, fishery impacts, and effective management practices. Many coral reefs are in poor condition, yet we do not fully understand the processes behind the threats that are undermining their integrity. The mechanisms causing differential mortality among individuals, species, and locations are yet to be explained, but they are key to predicting where corals will be able to survive and indeed be successful in times of stress. Research supported by the ICRS Fellowships should increase our understanding of social, biological, and/or ecological processes that are relevant to improved management of coral reefs at local, regional, and/or global scales.

The intent of the Fellowships is to assist research students develop skills and address problems related to coral reef ecosystem science and management. The funding may be used, for example, by a student resident in a developed country to visit and undertake fieldwork on coral reefs in another country, or by a student from a developing country to visit and work on data or samples at an institution in a developed country, or for travel and other expenses within the same country. However, where applications are judged to be of similar merit, an award will tend to be given to a candidate whose work appears more strongly reliant on ICRS support.

Conditions of each ICRS Graduate Fellowship are that:

- a) Recipients must be student (or full) members of the International Coral Reef Society at the time of submission of their application
- b) Recipients must report back to ICRS on the progress of their research, outlining their findings in a form suitable for publication in Reef Encounter, either as a two-page progress report, or as a fuller (3 or 4 page) article. Reports should be submitted to the recording secretary of the society within 18 months of the award of the Fellowship.
- c) Recipients must also provide ICRS with accounts and receipts showing how the funds received have been spent, again within 18 months of the award of the Fellowship.
- d) Recipients must, so far as practicable, publicize their project and also acknowledge appropriately, including within publications, the support provided by ICRS.

Application Format and Directions

Each proposal should consist of the following components, combined into a single PDF file:

1. A curriculum vitae (cv) of 2 pages
 2. The Research Proposal (up to 3 pages)
 3. Two letters of support (<500 words)
-
1. Specifications for these items are as follows:
 - Curriculum Vitae:** this should not exceed two (2) pages in length. It should include the educational history of the applicant but focus on ***past project work*** and ***marine activities*** and include details of any ***scientific papers*** already published, mentioning the contribution made to each.
 - 2. **The Research Proposal:** this should be written in English and **not exceed three pages in length** (using 12- point font with one or one-and-a-half line spacing between lines). It should include the following sections:
 - a. Concise explanatory title of no more than two lines
 - b. Brief introduction with sufficient background to describe the value of the proposed work to the reef-science and management community
 - c. Clear set of aims and/or objectives
 - d. Methods, which should be clear, concise, and repeatable, and include planned data collection, analyses, and expected results. *Note:* Projects should have a duration of no more than 24 months with reports and deliverables provided within 36 months.
 - e. Budget with clear breakdown of costs and totals, and a short explanation (1 to 2 sentences) justifying the budget with reference to level of the applicant's financial need (e.g., state what work could not be completed without the fellowship).
 - f. Timeline of how research will be executed and when funds will be spent
 - g. Literature cited (<10 references)
 - **Letters of Support:** two letters of support are required, one of which should be from the applicant's major professor / senior supervisor who should so far as possible comment on both the proposed work. These letters should include information on the applicants background, research acumen, level of financial need, and likelihood of follow through to complete the work.

The completed application documents must be combined into a single word or pdf file prior to submission. The file must be < 10 mb in size and should be named as: ApplicantLastName_ApplicantFirstName_ICRSGRF and should be submitted through the online Form: <https://forms.gle/Hg9CyghmbAQQSeLz9>

Please note that a Google email account is required to submit an application. A free account can be made through Google if required.

Developing Country Applications

Students from a Developing Country are defined as those who were brought up in and have the nationality of any country, other than those countries which are included in the List of High-Income Countries as defined by the World Bank. Please refer to the following website to confirm your countries status: <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/the-world-by-income-and-region.html>. Any country defined as low to upper middle income will be considered as a Developing Country.

Students from a Developing Country are eligible for one of the fellowships reserved for members from a Developing Country even if they are undertaking their studies in or are proposing to visit another laboratory in a High-Income Country, so long as they do not also possess the nationality of that or any other High-Income Country.

Marking criteria

Your application will be assessed on its completeness, quality and relevance to this award. As such, please ensure that you have provided ALL sections requested (two support letters, 2 page CV, 3 page research proposal), is within word and page limits provided and includes specific details outlined above. We will also review your budget and budget justifications closely to evaluate the strength of the financial requirements of both the candidate and the proposed project.