



ICRS Graduate Fellowships

Next Application Due Date:
15th February 2021

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 threats that are undermining their integrity or their interactions. What processes and mechanisms are causing differential mortality and how are some species still 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:

1. A short cover letter
2. A curriculum vitae (cv)
3. The Research Proposal
4. Two letters of support

Specifications for these items are as follows:

1. **Cover Letter:** this should show or state the University or College to which the applicant is affiliated, state the degree for which the applicant is registered, and also state if the applicant is originally from a different country (to assess eligibility for one of the awards reserved for candidates from developing countries). The letter should give the title or topic of the applicant's thesis. It should include a statement confirming that the applicant is a member of ICRS, stating how many years the applicant has been a member, and mentioning if appropriate any contribution made to the Society. It should also indicate whether the letters of support are included with the application or will be sent separately and if so by whom.

2. **Curriculum Vitae:** this should not exceed three (3) 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.

3. **The Research Proposal:** this should be written in English and **not exceed six pages in length** (using 12- point font with one or one-and-a-half line spacing between lines, saved as a pdf file). It should include the following sections:

a. Key Information

- i) The applicant's name and institutional address
- ii) The degree for which the applicant is enrolled or registered, together with the start date and anticipated date of completion
- iii) The title of the proposed research or activity
- iv) The total cost of proposed research and amount requested from ICRS
- v) The applicant's Senior Supervisor / Major Professor's name, institutional address and contact information

b. Proposal Summary This section should summarise in no more than 12 lines the proposed research or other activities. It should briefly place the proposed research in context and indicate the principal research aims or questions which led to the proposal.

- c. **Proposal Background** This section should summarise the scientific and / or other background to the research. It will likely include a brief overview of the relevant literature (a detailed review is not required). It should also explain the rationale behind the proposal, leading to a clear explanation of the project's aims or objectives.
- d. **Project Activities** This section should briefly layout the research and/or other activities that it is proposed to pursue, and provide an indicative timetable. It should also include details of locations and/or institutions to be visited and indicate whether host institutions or staff have been contacted in support of the visit.
- e. **Methods** This section should provide details of particular methods to be used, explain any experimental design, and state how the data will be analysed.
- f. **Relevance & Implications** This section should briefly outline the expected outcomes, and indicate how the findings are expected to contribute to resolving coral reef ecosystem management and/or science issues.
- g. **Detailed Budget & Justification** Please give a simple budget for the proposed research and related activities and state the amount(s) of funding anticipated from ISRS and from any other sources. The amount requested from ISRS must not exceed \$2,500. Evidence of cost-sharing is desirable. This might include either additional funding, or accommodation or equipment, or access to laboratory facilities to be provided at reduced cost or free of charge.
- h. **Literature Cited** Please provide details of the literature cited, preferably using the bibliographic format for the Society's journal, Coral Reefs. (These references may be typed in size 11 or 10 size font.)

4. **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 and the applicant's background and abilities. The letter of support may be included with the application or, preferably, come directly from the academic concerned. In this latter case please ask for it to be sent as an e-mail attachment with the phrase "ICRS Graduate Fellowship" and the applicant's name included in the email's subject line. The completed application document (and also letters of support) should sent by email, preferably as a single file, to the corresponding secretary. Dr. Michael Sweet (m.sweet@derby.ac.uk) by the end of the day on February 15.

The files should be named using the following format:

ICRS_GRADUATEGRANT_APPLICANT FAMILYNAME_PROPOSAL/CV/COVERLTR
(according to whether the document is the application, CV or Covering Letter).

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. Currently this List of High-Income Countries includes: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Chile, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic,

Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Guam, Hong Kong SAR, China, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Rep., Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein , Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, China, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Virgin Islands (U.S.). 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 do not also possess the nationality of that or any other High-Income Country.