



2022-2023 Multidisciplinary Environmental Research Awards for Graduate Students

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

A single PDF should be prepared by the student applicant for final submission of the complete proposal; it should be named using the convention “**LastName_MERAGS_2022**”. The “CESE Cover Page” (available at “www.cese.uconn.edu/2022-2023-mergas”) must be completed in full and inserted so as to be the first page of the complete proposal.

So that all applicants have equal opportunities to compose a compelling proposal, we have established limits to the length of sections, sizes of margins (1 inch all around), and the font sizes of characters. Nonetheless, the curriculum vitae of student (1) and mentors (2), as well as letters of recommendation from each of your two mentors may be formatted without limitations regarding margins, font sizes, or length. Beyond the proposal content specified on the announcement, no additional material may be submitted, and no additional information will be considered by the Panel in evaluating the proposal.

Project Title.—This may not exceed two lines of text.

Non-Technical Abstract.—This section should summarize the salient features of the proposed project in the context of environmental research or scholarship, and do so without use of excessive jargon. It should be targeted for the “non-academic”. It should highlight the importance of the work and the manner in which it will advance environmental understanding, including broader impacts that relate to issues of societal concern.

Research Description.—To the extent possible, applicants should avoid use of jargon or highly technical terms. The proposal will be evaluated by a panel of faculty and staff members that includes individuals who are ***not*** in your discipline; thus, clarity of exposition is critical to success. The goal should be to communicate the conceptual value of the research, including its scholarly merits, its importance to advancement of environmental understanding, and its ramifications for societal well-being.

Budget & Justification.—Applicants should itemize budgetary items so it is clear how the requested funds will be spent. The justification should enable the review panel to understand the extent to which the requested funds are critical to the conduct of the proposed activities. All requested funds must be expended by ~ **1 June 2023**. Please contact **Marita Decozio-Wiley** (marita.d.wiley@uconn.edu) or **Sarah Bothell** (sarah.bothell@uconn.edu) **before** completing your proposal to ensure that requested funds can be spent before ~ **1 June 2023**.

Multidisciplinary Nature of Research.—Applicants should identify the features of the proposed research that are **multidisciplinary** and **environmental**.

Plan for Collaboration.—Applicants should carefully expose the particular steps that will be taken during the conduct of the research that will ensure that it represents a multidisciplinary collaboration with **both** mentors.

Letters of Support from Faculty Mentors.—Two letters, one from each mentor, should be included in the complete proposal. The letters of support should provide insight into the **capabilities of the applicant to execute the research**, as well as the **extent to which the proposed research could lead to publication or subsequent grant applications**. Because these awards are intended to support **new** multidisciplinary collaborations that enhance the research experiences of the applicant, mentors should include such perspectives in their letters of support.

Curriculum Vitae.— These should appear after the letters of support in the order: student applicant, mentor-1, and mentor-2.

Final Assembly of the Complete Proposal.—Once you have your completed cover page and completed proposal, use the software of your choice to assemble the parts of your proposal into a single PDF.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The “Funding Period” ends in the Summer 2023. As such, all funds must be expended by ~ 1 June 2023. Unspent funds will not carry forward into the next fiscal year.

Proposed budgets may include a stipend, equipment, supplies and materials, travel for proposed activities, and per diem or contractual services related to the research. Budget requests should **not** exceed \$8,000 without **exceptionally strong justification**. The proposed budget will be reviewed in relation to the proposed research activities. You should provide details with appropriate justification for each budget item as follows:

1. **Stipend:** A stipend is intended to meet your living expenses while conducting research (i.e., before the end of the Summer Semester). The awarded stipend does **not** constitute a salary and is **not** transferable to your department.
2. **Supplies:** Specify supplies needed for your research, list costs and quantities, and provide a justification for each item.
3. **Domestic/Foreign Travel:** This request should include only funding for travel that is necessary to conduct your proposed project. Describe the relationship of the travel to

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the project, and provide details as to how the travel will enhance your research. Travel to conduct your research and funding requested for this purpose must be expended during the “Funding Period” (i.e., **before** ~ 1 June 2022).

4. **Equipment:** Equipment purchases must be justified in terms of their need for conducting your research. In the case where the same or similar equipment is already available on campus, you must provide justification concerning accessibility or the need to purchase additional units. Upon completion of your summer research, the equipment purchased, if any, must be returned to CESE or may remain within the possession of your mentors, at the discretion of the Director of CESE.
5. **Contractual Costs:** Include fees and charges for services, such as laboratory analysis fees. **Laboratory analyses must be completed by the Environmental Chemistry Laboratory of CESE** (contact **Chris Perkins** [christopher.perkins@uconn.edu] for details). If CESE does not execute the required analyses, you must use a laboratory on campus or if intramural options are not possible, justification must be provided as to why an extramural facility will be utilized.

To reiterate, budget requests must contain only expenses that can be fully expended **prior** to ~ **1 June 2023**. Examples of funding that will **not** be covered by this solicitation include:

- **Purchase of an airline ticket when the travel period extends beyond the end of the funding period;**
- **Supplies that cannot be purchased prior to the end of the funding period; and**
- **Costs for sample analyses that are paid after the end of the funding period.**

Please address any technical questions concerning either the creation of the final proposal as a PDF document, or use of the “CESE Cover Page” to Phillip Caron via phone (6-2254) or by e-mail (phillip.caron@uconn.edu). Please make every attempt to do this well before the submission deadline.