

**New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute**  
**2025-2026 Student Water Research**  
**Grant Program**  
**Request for Proposals**

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute is pleased to announce the 2025-2026 Student Water Research Grant Program. Awards support the training of New Mexico's future water experts through grants to university students throughout the state for their water-related research projects. Student Water Research Grants provide students with opportunities for hands-on experience in the lab and field and provide students with the skill sets needed to successfully complete degree programs and move into New Mexico's job sector. Many student recipients of NM WRRRI grants are now established university faculty and federal laboratory scientists. Other students are now technicians and experts at every level of local, state, and federal agencies. They are also well-represented in water-related aspects of private industry.

Awarded students collaborate with accomplished and knowledgeable faculty researchers and present research results at regional, national, and international forums. Research results are also made available through peer-reviewed journals and other widely distributed reports. Under the guidance of their faculty advisor, a student has the opportunity to take the lead on a proposed activity that increases the scope of a faculty-led project.

**Program Description**

Student Water Research Grants are intended to help students initiate research projects or supplement existing student research projects in water resources research to improve water understanding and management in New Mexico. Budgets may include but are not limited to, expenditures for student salaries and fringe, health insurance, tuition, supplies, sample analysis costs, field equipment, travel to field sites, and travel to present results at professional meetings. Funds will not be approved for faculty salaries.

Although cost-sharing is not required, institutions are encouraged to provide financial support for student research project costs.

**Funding**

NM WRRRI intends to fund multiple awards, with each award no greater than \$7,500 for the project period. Funding for these awards is provided by the New Mexico State Legislature through the State General Fund. Only direct costs are allowed; indirect costs may be shown as institutional cost share. Awards will be effective October 1, 2025, and all expenses related to these projects must be expended by September 30, 2026.

**Eligibility**

All student researchers (undergraduate, masters, or doctoral student) enrolled in a degree program at a New Mexico-based public higher education institution are encouraged to apply. The proposal submission must have a faculty sponsor from the applicant's institution. Preference will be given to first-time applicants, although previous recipients of Student Water Research Grants will be given consideration.

**Deliverables**

Student grant recipients are expected to submit a poster abstract of their research project in conjunction with the NM WRRRI's 70th Annual New Mexico Water Conference to be held at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico, October 22-23, 2025. Information about the

conference will be shared via the *New Mexico Water eNews* as event planning and coordination progress.

A project progress report will be due on April 1, 2026. Upon completion of the research project, recipients are required to submit a final project report, which includes a narrative on research activities and results, a report on project expenditures, and two project slides summarizing research results. The final report will be due on September 30, 2026.

**Proposal Deadline**

Monday, September 16, 2025; 5:00 pm

**Expected Award Date**

October 1, 2025

**Program Contact Information**

For questions concerning the program, please contact Carolina Mijares, Sr. Program Manager, at [mijares@nmsu.edu](mailto:mijares@nmsu.edu) (575-646-7991), or Sam Fernald, NM WRRRI Director, at [aferald@nmsu.edu](mailto:aferald@nmsu.edu) (575-646-4337).

**Proposal Content**

Proposals must be submitted via email to Carolina Mijares at [mijares@nmsu.edu](mailto:mijares@nmsu.edu) as an attachment. The "Subject" line of the email message should read "**2025-2026 NM WRRRI Student Grant Proposal.**" Proposals must be created with 12 pt. Times New Roman font using one-inch margins and single-spaced text. *Proposals that do not adhere to these guidelines may not be considered for review.*

Proposals will consist of the following:

1. First page
  - Student PI: Include name, address, email, and telephone number; department, degree in progress, and expected graduation date
  - Faculty Sponsor: Include name, address, email, and telephone number
  - Title of Project: Use a concise descriptive title that clearly reflects a specific relationship to a water resources problem.
  - Research Category: Provide a research category that most closely applies to the proposed project. Research categories include, but are not limited to, the groups provided in **Attachment A**.
  - Focus Categories: Choose a maximum of three focus categories which may include, but are not restricted to, the list provided in **Attachment B**, with the preferred focus category first.
  - Keywords: Enter keywords of your choice descriptive of the work.
  - Problem Statement and Objectives: State briefly the project's goals and objectives. This section should not exceed two paragraphs.
  
2. Second page
  - Methodology: Provide a review of the methods to be used. This section should not exceed two paragraphs.
  - Expected results and significance: Indicate the results, benefits, or information expected to be gained from the project and how they could be used. This section should not exceed two paragraphs.
  - If references are needed, include them on page 2.
  
3. Third page
  - Budget components not to exceed \$7,500. Use the following format:  
  

<u>Salary</u>	(identify individuals and estimated percentage of time and month/hours, and the rate
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of compensation proposed)

Fringe Benefits (use rates/amounts conforming with your university's current F&A rates)

Health Insurance (a maximum of \$600 (\$200/mo. for up to three months) can be requested for health insurance coverage for graduate assistantships)

Travel (provide estimated costs showing the number of trips required, the type of trip, using rates approved by your university's travel policy). Costs associated with attending the NM WRRRI's 70th Annual New Mexico Water Conference may also be included in travel.

Supplies (indicate separately the amounts estimated for laboratory, field and/or computer supplies)

Services (justify any services, e.g. laboratory analysis)

Equipment (identify individually any item having a useful life of more than one year and a cost of more than \$5,000 per unit)

Other (itemized costs not included elsewhere such as tuition, computer charges, communications, analysis, equipment maintenance, manuscript page charges, or other costs as appropriate)

Total (not to exceed \$7,500)

**RESEARCH CATEGORY**

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

CLIMATE AND HYDROLOGIC PROCESSES

ENGINEERING

GROUND-WATER FLOW AND TRANSPORT

SOCIAL SCIENCES

WATER HAZARDS AND CLIMATE VARIABILITY

WATER POLICY, PLANNING, AND SOCIOECONOMICS

WATER QUALITY

WATER SCARCITY AND AVAILABILITY

WATER TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

WATERSHED AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND WATER LITERACY

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**FOCUS CATEGORIES**

ACID DEPOSITION  
AGRICULTURE  
CLIMATOLOGICAL PROCESSES  
CONSERVATION  
DROUGHT  
ECOLOGY  
ECONOMICS  
EDUCATION  
FLOODS  
GEOMORPOLOGICAL PROCESSES  
GEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES  
GROUNDWATER  
HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY  
HYDROLOGY  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
IRRIGATION  
LAW, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLICY  
MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING  
METHODS  
MODELS  
NITRATE CONTAMINATION  
NON-POINT POLLUTION  
NUTRIENTS  
RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES  
RECREATION  
SEDIMENTS  
SOLUTE TRANSPORT  
SURFACE WATER  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES  
TREATMENT  
WASTEWATER  
WATER QUALITY  
WATER QUANTITY  
WATER SUPPLY  
WETLANDS  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_