

New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute

2021-2022 Student Water Research Grant Program

Request for Proposals

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute is pleased to announce the 2021-2022 Student Water Research Grant Program. Funding for this program was made available through the New Mexico State Legislature. 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 of student research project costs.

Funding

NM WRRRI intends to fund eight or more awards, with each award no greater than \$7,500 for the project period. Awards will be effective May 16, 2021, to May 15, 2022. For these research grants, only direct costs are allowed. Indirect costs may be shown as institutional cost share. Expenses related to these projects must be expended by May 15, 2022. No project extensions will be granted.

Eligibility

All student researchers (undergraduate, masters, or doctoral student) enrolled in a degree program at one of the eight following New Mexico Public Higher Education Institutions (New Mexico State University, University of New Mexico, New Mexico Tech, Eastern New Mexico University, Western New Mexico University, New Mexico Highlands University, Northern New Mexico College, and Diné College) 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 full consideration.

Deliverables

Student grant recipients are strongly encouraged to submit a poster abstract of their research project in conjunction with the NM WRRI's 66th Annual New Mexico Water Conference to be held virtually in the fall of 2021. The conference and poster session dates are yet to be determined; dates will be made available and distributed through the *New Mexico Water eNews*.

A project progress report will be due on October 1, 2021. 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 is due May 15, 2022.

Proposal Deadline

Thursday, April 15, 2021, 5:00 pm

Expected Award Date

May 16, 2021

Program Contact Information

For questions concerning the program, please contact Carolina Mijares mijares@nmsu.edu (575-646-7991), or Sam Fernald afernald@nmsu.edu (575-646-4337)

Proposal Content

Proposals must be submitted via email to Carolina Mijares at mijares@nmsu.edu as an attachment. The "Subject" line of the email message should read "2021 NM WRRI Student Grant Proposal." Proposals must be created with 12 pt. Times New Roman font using one-inch margins and single-spaced text.

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 (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:

Salary (identify individuals and estimated percentage of time and month/hours, and the rate 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, type of trip, using rates approved by your university's travel policy)

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

Total

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 _____