



# Informational Webinar

## 2022 Delta Science Fellows Program

February 7th, 2022 | 10:30am

Registration Link: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/92662433735>

The information in this presentation is accurate as of February 7th, 2022. However, the timeline and details of the 2022 Delta Science Fellows Request for Applications (RFA) contained herein are subject to change. Any updates to the timeline or the RFA will be listed on the Sea Grant website:

**<https://caseagrants.ucsd.edu/fellowships/delta-science-fellowship>**

We urge potential applicants to refer to the RFA itself when preparing applications and not solely rely on the information in this presentation.

# Introductions



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Delta  
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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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# Webinar Objectives

- To describe the purposes and management needs for the Delta Science Fellowship Program
- Review important application components, including new components of the 2022 RFA
- Provide application tips and answer questions that potential applicants have



# Webinar Guidelines

- Please ask questions by using the Q&A function found at the bottom of the Zoom screen
- Please reserve very specific questions (relevant to your project only) for email to either Lian or Lauren
- Recording and PDF of slides will be made available on Sea Grant website



# California Sea Grant



- Federal – State Partnership, network of 34 programs
- Authorized by the National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966
- **Mission:** To provide integrated research, extension, outreach, and education to help Californians balance diverse interests that intersect with the coastal and marine environments, and adapt to changing conditions and needs.



# Delta Stewardship Council

- Independent State agency created by the Delta Reform Act of 2009
- Responsible for developing the Delta Plan
- **Mission:** to advance the state's coequal goals for the Delta - achievement of a more reliable statewide water supply and a healthy and protected ecosystem, both in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the Delta as an evolving place

# Delta Science Program

## **Mission statement**

To provide the best possible scientific information for water and environmental decision making in the Bay-Delta system. That mission shall be carried out through funding research, synthesizing and communicating scientific information to policy-makers and decision-makers, promoting independent scientific peer review, and coordinating with Delta agencies to promote science-based adaptive management.

## **Delta Science Plan**

Lays the foundation for achieving a shared vision for Delta Science: 'One Delta, One Science' - an open Delta science community that works collaboratively to build a shared body of scientific knowledge to inform future water and environmental decisions





# Delta Science Fellowship Program

- **Purpose:** to train the next generation of science leaders in the Delta by bringing together fellows with research mentors and community mentors in collaborative research, data analysis, and synthesis projects relevant to Delta policy and management
- **Provides:** up to two years of support (monthly stipend, research/education related expenses) based on scope/type of projects and contingent upon the availability of funds, for postdoctoral, Ph.D., and master's fellows.



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# Delta Science Fellowship Goals

1. Engage highly qualified scientific talent to help advance the state of knowledge in social and biophysical science on high priority Management Needs and Science Actions identified by the Science Action Agenda (SAA).
2. Provide support for the training and development of social and biophysical scientists to work on research projects that support resource management in the Delta and contribute to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in Delta science; and
3. Promote scientific partnerships across research institutions, agencies, non-profit organizations, Delta communities, and multiple disciplines.





# 2022 SAA Management Needs

Based on the draft **2022-2026 Science Action Agenda (SAA)**, a four-year multidisciplinary science agenda for the Delta that prioritizes and aligns science actions to respond to relevant Management Needs:

- 1. Improve coordination and integration of large-scale experiments, data collection, and evaluation across regions and institutions**
- 2. Enhance monitoring and model interoperability, integration, and forecasting**
- 3. Expand multi-benefit approaches to managing the Delta as a social-ecological system**
- 4. Build and integrate knowledge on social process and behavior of Delta communities and residents to support effective and equitable management**
- 5. Acquire new knowledge and synthesize existing knowledge of interacting stressors to support species recovery**
- 6. Assess and anticipate climate change impacts to support successful adaptation strategies**



# Eligibility

- **Postdoctoral fellowship:**
  - Before fellowship start date, have completed a PhD degree in a field related to natural resources, environmental sciences, engineering, social sciences, or human dimensions
  - Associated with an accredited US institution of higher learning for the duration of the award
- **PhD/Master's fellowship:**
  - Be actively enrolled or recently been admitted to a PhD/master's degree program in natural resources, environmental sciences, engineering, social sciences, or human dimensions
  - Candidates must remain associated with an accredited U.S. institution of higher learning for the duration of the award



# Eligibility

- Identify and include letters of support from a research mentor and at least one community mentor in the full application
- Proposed fellowship projects are not required to be physically located within the Delta; however, project activities must provide a demonstrable benefit(s) to the Delta and address the priority research topics identified in the 2022-2026 SAA

*Sea Grant and the Delta Science Program are committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication, and education programs that serve people with unique knowledge, backgrounds, life experiences, needs, perspectives, and ways of thinking.*

# 2022 Fellowship Awards

- The Delta Science Program and partner organizations are expected to sponsor a total of approximately 6-8 fellows across multiple disciplinary areas.
- Postdoctoral Fellowship
  - Up to 2 years of support (max: \$120,900/year)
  - \$59,000/yr in stipend (not paid as salaries, wages & benefits)
  - \$34,000/yr for research/education (supplies, equipment, travel, health benefits) + 30% indirect cost (IDC) on R&E costs
- PhD/Master's Fellowship
  - Up to 2 years of support (max: \$75,400/year)
  - \$35,000/yr in stipend (not paid as salaries, wages & benefits)
  - \$23,000/yr for research/education (supplies, equipment, travel, health benefits) + 30% IDC on R&E costs





# Fellowship Project Deliverables

- Submit a formal mentoring plan within one month after funds are awarded
- Participation in Early Career Leadership Workshop (if offered)
- Presentations or briefings during Delta Stewardship Council Meetings
- Oral or poster presentation at Bay-Delta Science Conference and/or State of the Estuary Conference. (Encouraged to present research at other national and international professional meetings)
- Publish results from this fellowship in peer-reviewed, open-access journals (e.g., *San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science*)
- Annual progress reports and final completion report

Questions?





# ***NEW for 2022!***

**Biophysical  
Track**

**Social  
Science  
Track**

- All application components and deadlines are the same
  - Each review track will have appropriate expertise



# NEW! Notice of Intent to Submit Form

**Due February 28th, 2022, 5:00PM PT**

- Required in order to submit a full application
- Not evaluated, but assists in pairing applicants with community mentors and identifying appropriate reviewers
- Provide applicant's names, contact information, tentative project title and description, research mentor name and affiliation, community mentor(s) (if identified), and review track (social science or biophysical science)
- Applicants should identify if they need help identifying a community mentor, and if so, provide sufficient information in their project description to help the Delta Science Program provide advice on finding a community mentor
- NOI Form Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/KijjynrbZW>

# Application Components

**Due April 20th, 2022, 5:00PM PT to eSeaGrant\***

NOI required in order to submit a full application!

Application Component	Sections	Page Limit
Signed Title Page		N/A
Project Summary		1 page
Project Narrative	Proposed Research	12 pages
	Management Needs	1 page
	Personal Statement	2 pages
	CVs	2 pages each
Budget & Justification		
Letters of Support	Community Member	2 pages
	Research Mentor	2 pages
Letters of Academic Recommendation		2 pages
Transcripts (Undergraduate/Graduate)		





# Signed Title Page

- Provide summary information
- Approval signatures from the fellow, mentor/principal investigator, and authorized institutional representative
- Provide information about animal subjects and recombinant DNA technology/research

# Project Summary

(1-page limit, using 12-pt font and 1" margins)

- Brief sections for objectives, methodology and rationale (referring to relevance to high priority Delta Science Actions [Appendix A])
- Concise description of the proposed research in a form useful for a variety of purposes such as informational websites and outreach products
  - *Should be clear, compelling, and engaging*
- The project summary is the most widely consulted description of your project
  - *Write it last!*





# Project Narrative: Proposed Research

(12-page limit, 12-pt font, 1” margins, excluding references)

1. **Introduction/Question/Objectives:** What is the question/problem being addressed? What are the goals and objectives of the proposed research?
2. **Approach/Plan of Work:** What is the anticipated approach to the proposed research?
3. **Benefits and Broader Impacts:** What are the anticipated benefits to the fellow, research mentor, and community mentor(s)? What is the relevance of the research to Delta communities, policy, or management of the Delta? Discuss how the project team and proposed work will advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in Delta science and work to achieve other beneficial, broader societally-relevant impacts.
4. **Anticipated Outputs and Products:** What outputs and products can be expected after year 1, and after year 2?
5. **Literature Citations:** Should be included but will not be counted toward the 12-page limit for the proposed research.

# Project Narrative Continued

- **Management Needs and Science Actions:** (1-pg limit) Explain which overarching Management Need and specific Science Action within it are most related to the project and how the proposed work will address them. If applicable, discuss how the work relates to up to two additional Science Actions. Be specific!
- **Personal Statement:** (2-pg limit) How does this project fit into the fellow's career plans and summarize experiences that specifically prepared the applicant for this project. How does this project promote interactions with your research and community mentors that will benefit your professional development?
- **CVs:** (2-page limit for each CV) From the fellowship applicant, research mentor(s), and community mentor(s).





# Budget & Budget Justification

- Use the budget workbook to plan your budget with your mentor and academic institution
- Final budget submission and justification must be submitted via eSeaGrant budget worksheets
- Carefully review budget instructions in the RFA and eSeaGrant
  - Pay attention to annual budget limits
  - Research-related costs and benefits are subject to 30% indirect cost rate
  - Justifications should explain all budget items in sufficient detail to enable reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the research-related funds being requested.
- **Budget questions?** Email Rose Madson, [sgbudget@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgbudget@ucsd.edu)



# Letters and Transcripts

- **Letters of support from mentors:** (2-page limit each) Indicate willingness to be a mentor, support for research project, and brief description of plan for mentorship.
  - Research mentor
  - Community mentor
- **Three letters of academic recommendation:** (2-page limit each) Should address the academic qualifications and performance of the candidate.
  - One can come from research mentor but should not duplicate material from letter of support
  - Must be submitted directly to eSeaGrant
- **Copies of transcripts** (undergraduate, graduate)
  - Unofficial are OK!





# Review & Selection Process

- **Full Applications are due April 20th, 2022, 5:00PM PT**
- Biophysical and Social Science Review Panelists will be selected by California Sea Grant and Delta Science Program
  - Outside, independent expert reviewers from relevant disciplines, Delta Science Program leadership, and California Sea Grant leadership
  - Review of all applications using selection criteria
  - Recommend finalists for funding
  - Final decisions made by Lead Scientist at the Delta Science Program

# Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	Evaluation Weight
The quality of the research proposal, including appropriateness of the approach to be used.	25%
The strength of academic performance and relevant academic achievement, experience, and the quality of applicant's career goal statement.	20%
The importance of the proposed research to the priority topics identified in Appendix A.	25%
The research mentor's demonstrated abilities in the general area of methodology and/or questions addressed by the proposal.	10%
The expected quality and strength of interaction that will be developed between the fellow and their research and community mentor(s).	10%
The degree to which the proposed activity will achieve beneficial, broader societally-relevant impacts. Societally-relevant outcomes that the Delta Science Program and California Sea Grant value include, but are not limited to the following: advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion in Delta science; curriculum enhancement and educator training at any level; increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science; enhanced equitability of public access to information and resources; increased partnerships between academia, communities, industry, and others; and enhanced infrastructure for research and education.	10%

# Timetable

**Feb 7, 2022** (10:30AM - 12:00PM PT) - RFA Informational Webinar

**Feb 28, 2022** (5:00PM PT) - Notice of Intent form due

**April 20, 2022** (5:00PM PT) - Applications due to California Sea Grant College Program via eSeaGrant online submission portal

**June 2022** (approximate) - Applicants notified of selection results

**Aug/Sep 2022** (approximate) – Start date: Funds awarded to the selected Delta Science master's, Ph.D. and postdoctoral fellows

**Jul/Aug 2024** (approximate) – 2-year fellowship awards end. 1-year fellowships will also be considered (ending Jul/Aug 2023).



# Questions?





# Application Tips

- Meet all deadlines, exceptions will not be granted
- Read all application instructions carefully; make sure you are answering the questions and meeting the selection criteria
- Clear and engaging proposals stand out in reviewer's minds! Make sure you accomplish that, especially in the project summary/introduction.
- Assume that you are writing for a reviewer in a somewhat related field, rather than for an expert directly in your area.

# Common Errors

- Proposal is too ambitious... promises too much for too little money and/or time, unrealistic
- There are no testable hypotheses (a proposal that is primarily descriptive is less favorably received)
- Proposal is fragmented and disjointed; different parts were obviously written by different colleagues and hastily assembled by the applicant
- Not enough detail or unclear research methods
- Proposal does not “fit” with the purpose of the RFA or address priority topic areas



# Common Errors

- Introduction too long
- Plan of work and research methods too short and too vague; inadequate details to determine likelihood of success
- Inadequate expertise within the partnership
- Broader impacts to Delta policies and/or management are missing
- Role of mentors in providing mentorship and professional development is not described
- Necessary permits not described





# Point of Contacts



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Delta  
Science  
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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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For full details:  
<https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/fellowships/delta-science-fellowship>





**Questions?**