COAST Undergraduate Student Research Awards
AY 2017-2018

Application Deadline: Friday, November 17, 5:00 p.m. PDT

The CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST) is the CSU system-wide affinity group for marine and coastal related activities. COAST integrates system-wide resources and promotes interdisciplinary multi-campus collaborations to advance our knowledge of California’s natural coastal and marine resources and the processes that affect them. The scope of COAST includes the ocean, coast and coastal watersheds. COAST’s goals are to

- Advance our knowledge of natural coastal and marine resources and the processes that affect them.
- Support research related to marine, estuarine, and coastal regions.
- Develop innovative solutions to the economic, sociological, ecological and technological challenges that our coastal zone faces.
- Promote environmental literacy to foster stewardship and sustainable use of our coast.

COAST aims to increase CSU student participation in faculty-mentored marine and coastal research throughout the CSU. Through funding from the Chancellor’s Office and the campuses, COAST will provide support to CSU undergraduate students (total program amount per CSU campus: $2,500) working with CSU COAST faculty members. These awards will support students interested in pursuing marine-related careers and provide them with the opportunity to obtain the skills necessary to join a highly skilled, technologically advanced workforce while promoting and supporting CSU faculty research.

Key Dates & Information
Application Deadline: November 17, 2017
Earliest Award Notification: December 6, 2017
Maximum Award Amount: $1500
Anticipated Project Start Date: December 6, 2017, funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2018
Project Completion Date: August 31, 2018
Questions or additional information: Contact Dr. Alex Parker (aparker@csum.edu)

The sponsoring faculty member must be subscribed to the COAST listserv and have a current profile on Fresca (https://fresca.calstate.edu/) including the following elements: contact and biographical information, areas of interest (keywords) and relevant publications.

Applicants must be Cal Maritime students with a major GPA of 2.5 or better. Faculty mentors must verify these conditions in the letter of recommendation.
COAST encourages all types of research. Clear connections to COAST goals must be identified. Priority will be given to projects that are applicable to the needs of California.

Individual students may submit only one application in response to this announcement. Faculty members may sponsor more than one student.

**Application Materials and Instructions**

The COAST Undergraduate Research competition is open to ALL academically eligible Cal Maritime undergraduate students. Students must identify and work closely with a research advisor to develop and submit their project proposal. While the COAST Undergraduate Research Award is made to students, the program is intended to increase faculty - student collaboration and scholarship at the Academy and faculty advisors should be prepared to make a substantial contribution of time in support of research projects.

The project description must clearly describe the research project to be conducted, including its significance, novelty and application. Primary literature must be referenced. The project description must include experimental design, including a clear statement of hypotheses, methodology and planned data analysis. If your project is part of a larger, overall project, the description must also clearly define how your work contributes to the overall project. The project description is limited to 1500 words; references are submitted in a separate section. The quality of writing will be judged.

The relation to COAST’s goals section must clearly articulate how your general interest in marine/coastal science and your proposed project relate to one or more of the goals of COAST, as listed on page 1 of this announcement. Explain how the proposed research is related to your career goals. Priority will be given to projects that also are applicable to the needs of California.

The budget must explain how this award will help further and support your specific research experience and overall undergraduate education. Students may request up to $350 as a stipend. Funds to support student or faculty travel to present project findings should not be included in the budget; separate funds have been earmarked for this purpose. Include a timeline detailing how you will use this award and include your anticipated graduation date.

See Evaluation Criteria below for specific point values associated with each of these elements.

*Letter of Recommendation*

The faculty mentor must provide a letter of recommendation. Letters must detail the faculty member’s familiarity with the student, the value of the student’s proposed research and must
comment on the student’s ability to successfully conduct and complete the proposed project. Letters must verify that the student has a major GPA of 2.5 or better at the time of application. Faculty members may sponsor more than one student. Faculty members must submit their letters as pdf files directly to COAST at aparker@csum.edu and will remain confidential.

All materials must be submitted electronically to aparker@csum.edu by November 17, 2017, 5:00 p.m. PDT. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

**Evaluation Criteria**
Submissions will be evaluated based on the quality of the research described, how the proposed research meets one or more of the goals of COAST, and the need for support. The following evaluation criteria will be employed:

- **Project description** (55 points): Quality of writing (15); clear description of project (15); significance and novelty (5); experimental design and methodology (10); clearly stated hypotheses (5); data analysis plan (5)
- **Relation to COAST goals** (15 points): General interest in marine/coastal science and career goals (5); relationship of proposed research to marine, estuarine, coastal, or coastal watershed environments, organisms or issues (5); application to California’s needs (5)
- **Budget and Timeline** (10 points): Clear demonstration that the award will support your research goals and contribute to your overall education. Timeline must be included.
- **References** (10 points): Statements sufficiently referenced (5); use of original, peer-reviewed literature, both foundational and current (5)
- **Letter of Recommendation** (10 points): Faculty member’s relationship with student, value of student’s research, student’s ability to conduct research

**Award Conditions**
Awardees are required to

1. Acknowledge COAST in any publications resulting in whole or in part from the Award.
2. Provide COAST with an abstract of their research and a one-page summary of the impact of this award on their undergraduate experience and professional goals within six months of receiving the award.
Important Financial Aid and Tax Liability Information

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with their campus financial aid office prior to applying to COAST to determine the potential impact of this award to other forms of compensation provided through their university, including financial aid. All forms of assistance must be coordinated through campus financial aid offices. COAST awards will be processed by the campus in coordination with other forms of financial support. Please be advised that receiving and accepting a COAST award could lead to a decrease in other forms of financial assistance. Ordinarily, adjustments (if any) are made to loans first before other grants or scholarships. Award recipients should contact their campus financial aid office to determine how the award may affect their total financial aid package.

Because of Internal Revenue Service and other requirements, campuses may also consult with accounting, human resources and international programs staff to determine appropriate method of payment and any tax withholding requirements. Award recipients should consult with a tax professional regarding tax liability resulting from any award.
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AY 2017-2018 Application Form

Application Deadline: November 17, 2016, 5:00 p.m. PDT
Save this file as LastName_FirstName.docx and email it as an attachment to:
aparker@csum.edu

Proposal Cover Page

1. Research Project Title:

2. Student Name:
3. Student ID#:

4. Email:
5. Phone:
6. Department / Degree:
7. Anticipated Graduation Date (mm/yy)

8. Have you ever received a COAST award?
9. If yes, please provide year of award.

10. Faculty advisor Name:
11. Position / Title:
12. Department:
13. Email:
14. Phone:
A) Project Description (55 points; 1500 words maximum)

B) Relation to COAST Goals (15 points; 250 words maximum)

C) Budget and Timeline (10 points; 250 words maximum)

D) References (10 points; no limit)