

# COAST Undergraduate Student Research Support Program

AY 2020-2021

Application Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2020, 5:00pm

## Key Dates & Information

Application Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2020, 5:00pm

Earliest Award Notification: December 11, 2020

Campus Funding Available: \$2,500

COAST Program Activities Period: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

## COAST Program Description

COAST promotes research and education to advance our knowledge of marine and coastal resources and the processes that affect them and disseminates scientific information to stakeholders for the development of responsible policy statewide. The scope of COAST includes

- The open and coastal ocean;
- Coastal zones (bays, estuaries, beaches);
- Coastal watersheds: there must be clear and direct linkages between the organism, material or process in the watershed and the coast or ocean (e.g., anadromous fish, surface and groundwater flow, water quality).

Work supported by COAST is NOT limited to California. Please see [www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/coast/about/Pages/about.aspx](http://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/coast/about/Pages/about.aspx) for additional information.

COAST has the following goals:

- Support research related to marine, estuarine, coastal and coastal watershed regions.
- Advance our knowledge of natural coastal and marine resources and the processes that affect them.
- 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.

The COAST Undergraduate Student Research Support Program provides funding to every campus in the CSU to support undergraduate student participation in faculty-mentored marine, coastal and coastal watershed research. The goal of this program is to engage 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. The Office of Research is responsible for implementing this program and awarding the funds.

In AY 2020-21, the COAST Undergraduate Student Research Support Program will provide \$2,500 to each campus, including SJSU. These funds can be used in conjunction with any funds remaining from prior year allocations.

## Funding Requirements

Recipients of funding through the COAST Undergraduate Research Support must:

- Be a CSU undergraduate student in good academic standing;
- Work with a CSU faculty advisor; and
- Participate in a clearly defined project that is aligned with one or more of COAST's goals outlined on previous page.

Undergraduate students receiving funding through this program must work on or contribute to clearly defined research projects. Ideally, a student should be able to

1. articulate the details of the project (context, hypothesis, methods to be employed, etc.) and
2. describe how the support will facilitate their participation in research related to marine, estuarine, coastal and coastal watershed regions.

Examples of undergraduate research-related expenses envisioned include, but are not limited to:

- Wages paid directly to student researchers
- Research supplies or materials
- Travel to field site to collect samples or to off campus facility to analyze samples
- Sample analysis costs
- Purchase of highly specialized software to analyze samples or data
- Travel to workshop or short course to learn skills directly related to research
- Travel to conference or meeting to present the results of research

Funds should be managed by the faculty advisors on behalf of the student awardees. **The College Budget Analyst should be consulted during announcement development to advise on allowable expenses and categories (e.g., hourly wages and notified when awards are made.**

## Reporting

COAST will also request a report directly from each student including a project abstract, budget summary describing how the award was used, and a statement of impact describing how the award:

- 1) made the research project possible
- 2) enhanced the student's undergraduate experience
- 3) shaped their educational and career goals.

Reports from students not working over the summer are due to COAST on or before May 5, 2021. Reports from students working over the summer are due to COAST on or before August 11, 2021.

The Student Final Report Template is available at

<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/coast/funding/Pages/studentfunding.aspx#undergraduate-student-research>.

## **Application Materials and Instructions**

Students and Faculty Advisors are to complete the COAST Undergraduate Student Research Support Program AY 2020-2021 Application Form (below) and submit to the Office of Research. Below is a detailed description of the information that is required on the application.

### **Project Description**

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 or field project design, including a clear statement of hypotheses or questions to be addressed, methodology and planned data analysis. Include a timeline for implementation of your research plan and note your anticipated graduation date.

### **Relationship to COAST Goals**

The relation to COAST's goals section must clearly articulate how the proposed research relates to one or more of the goals of COAST, as listed above. Priority will be given to projects that also are applicable to the needs of California.

### **Budget**

Construct a line-item budget. You can request that the entire award be paid to your Department for you to use for supplies and services. Portions of awards paid directly to students will be processed through campus financial aid offices (Important Financial Aid and Tax Liability Information below).

Provide a justification that clearly explains your need for the requested support and details how this award will help further and support your research activities.

### **Letter of Recommendation**

Your SJSU research advisor must provide a letter of recommendation. Letters must discuss the value of the student's proposed research and comment on the student's ability to successfully conduct and complete the proposed project. Letters must verify that the student is enrolled as either a full- or parttime undergraduate at SJSU. Research advisors may sponsor more than one student.

Letters should be submitted along with the COAST Undergraduate Student Research Support Program AY 2020-2021 Application Form and will remain confidential.

### **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: Quality of writing; clear description of project including timeline; significance and novelty; experimental design and methodology; clearly stated hypotheses; data analysis plan
- Relation to COAST goals: Relation to marine, estuarine, coastal, or coastal watershed environments, organisms or issues; application to California's needs
- Budget and justification: Line item budget; justification
- References: Statements sufficiently referenced; use of original, peer-reviewed literature, both foundational and current
- Letter of Recommendation: Value of student's research, student's ability to conduct research

### Award Conditions

Awardees are required to:

1. Acknowledge COAST in any publications or presentations resulting in whole or in part from the Award.
  1. COAST should be referenced as "California State University Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST)".
  2. The logo is available in multiple file formats at <http://www.calstate.edu/coast/about/COAST-documents.shtml>
2. Provide COAST a report directly including a project abstract, budget summary describing how the award was used, and a statement of impact describing how the award 1) made the research project possible, 2) enhanced the student's undergraduate experience, and 3) shaped their educational and career goals. Reports from students not working over the summer are due to COAST on or before May 5, 2021. Reports from students working over the summer are due to COAST on or before August 11, 2021. The Student Final Report Template is available at <https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/coast/funding/Pages/studentfunding.aspx> - undergraduate-student-research.

### Important Financial Aid and Tax Liability Information

Students should be advised that they may be liable for State and Federal income tax on any funding provided directly to them as a stipend or wage, or that such funding could affect their financial aid package. Students should be encouraged to consult with a tax professional regarding potential tax liability resulting from any support provided through this program. 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.

Students should also be advised that any funding 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. *Students should be strongly encouraged to consult with their campus financial aid office prior to accepting any support offered through this program to determine the potential impact of support on other forms of compensation provided through their university, including financial aid.*