The Department of Coastal Sciences of the University of Southern Mississippi School of Ocean Science and Engineering is pleased to announce the availability of graduate fellowships in support of diversity to prospective students seeking a M.S. or Ph.D. degree. These fellowships are awarded competitively and are intended to support the recruitment of graduate students from historically underrepresented groups in coastal and marine science who demonstrate scholarly promise. Additional information on the Department of Coastal Sciences and the Coastal Sciences graduate program are available at https://www.usm.edu/graduate-programs/coastal-sciences.php. Candidates must contact potential faculty advisors in the Department of Coastal Sciences to discuss their research and educational interests and must identify a faculty sponsor prior to submitting a fellowship application. The graduate school application fee for students applying to the Coastal Sciences Graduate Fellowship in Support of Diversity will be waived. Mississippi residents who fall under historically underrepresented groups in coastal and marine science are particularly encouraged to apply.

**LOCATION**
The University of Southern Mississippi
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Ocean Springs, Miss.

**SALARY**
$1,900/month (M.S.)
$1,950/month (Ph.D.).
Salary increases by $50/month when the student advances to candidacy.
Additional benefits include a tuition waiver and health insurance.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**
June 30
Spring 2022 admission to the graduate program

**Contact Us Today!**
penny.isgar@usm.edu
228.818.8887
usm.edu/ocean

EOE/F/M/VETS/DISABILITY
HOW TO APPLY

To be considered for a fellowship, applicants will be required to submit the following by the application deadline.

1. A CV
2. Official transcripts
3. A statement of purpose
4. Three letters of recommendation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure recommendation letters are submitted by the deadline.
5. An essay that speaks to the candidate’s inclusion in one or more historically underrepresented groups in higher education. This essay is separate and in addition to the statement of purpose but should be submitted with the statement of purpose as a single PDF.

THE ESSAY

Applicants should use the essay to articulate how their experiences and background have influenced their career to this point (including how those experiences influenced their decision to apply for graduate school). Within this statement, applicants should provide insight about how they could contribute to a scholarly environment that values inclusivity and diversity. Applicants should also consider their potential in contributing to the inclusivity of COA, USM, and their broader field of study, as applicable. The essay should be a maximum of two pages. Applicants should use this essay to address how one or more of the following identities or experiences, and their intersections, apply to them.

- Member of an ethnic or racial group underrepresented or marginalized in graduate education and coastal and marine science, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous (American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or other Native Pacific Islander) and/or Latinx
- First-generation college student
- McNair or Mellon Mays Undergraduate Scholar
- Other identities and experiences including, but not limited to:
  - Being of a gender and/or sexual orientation identity historically underrepresented
  - Those who identify as a military veteran
  - Those that manage a disability
  - Those who have experienced housing or food insecurity
  - Single parents

The candidates will be initially evaluated based on the completeness of their application, their academic records (as evidenced through their CV and transcripts), their potential to flourish in the COA program (as evidenced through their statement of purpose and letters of recommendation), and potential to contribute to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Division of Coastal Sciences (as evidenced in their essay). The three top candidates will then be asked for an on-campus or virtual interview with faculty and students from the Division of Coastal Sciences. Preference for Mississippi residents from historically underrepresented groups in coastal and marine science may be shown if all other marks between applicants are equal.

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