Research Funding Opportunity

CMI Student Awards

*Deadline: December 2, 2015*

The Coastal Marine Institute
The University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) is a Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the University of Alaska (UA) and the State of Alaska. BOEM manages the exploration and development of the nation's offshore energy resources.

The Nature of CMI Student Awards
The CMI would like to assist students conducting research that is technically meritorious and relevant to the BOEM mission. Student Research Award proposals should address one or more of the CMI Framework Areas listed below. In 2016, CMI will award up to two Graduate Student Research Awards up to $25,000 each to qualified students for CMI related research. Students are limited to one research award per degree. Award funds may be used for graduate student stipend and benefits, tuition or required university fees, or for specific research expenses such as travel, supplies, and laboratory fees. One to one match is required to a total project cost of $50,000. One hundred percent of the funds must be used for the benefit of the graduate student.

Eligibility
To be eligible for a 2016 CMI Student Research Award, students must be enrolled in or accepted by a graduate degree program at UA by Fall 2015. Students who are enrolled must be in good academic standing.

CMI Framework Areas
The CMI has established Framework Areas to provide broad guidance in the development of specific research projects. Student research should address one or more of the following Framework Areas:

1. Scientific studies for better understanding of marine, coastal, or human environments affected or potentially affected by offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction or renewable energy development on the OCS;
2. Modeling studies of environmental, social, economic, or cultural processes related to OCS oil and gas or renewable energy activities in order to improve scientific predictive capabilities;
3. Experimental studies for better understanding of environmental processes or the causes and effects of OCS activities;
4. Projects that improve collection of and sharing of data regarding marine or coastal resources or human activities to support prudent management of oil and gas resources; and
5. Synthesis studies of scientific environmental or socioeconomic information relevant to the OCS oil and gas and renewable energy program.

Environmental Studies Program Study Areas
The most relevant studies will supply information to support the analysis of the potential effects of offshore development, including oil spill risk analysis and mitigation of potential impacts on the biological and human environment. The geographic area of study will be generally limited to the Alaska Region with a strong emphasis on the State and Federal waters offshore of Alaska, particularly in the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease areas in the Beaufort Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait. However, research efforts outside of the Alaska Region may be proposed if applicable to CMI priorities.

Budget/Timeline
Student Research Awards are restricted to a maximum of $25,000, inclusive of indirect costs. Funds should become available in early summer 2016. Work performance under these awards must start before October 1, 2016.
Matching Funds
The CMI Student Research Awards require 1:1 non-federal sources of match and/or in-kind cost share. Please talk to CMI personnel with questions regarding match funds.

Required Proposal Elements
Any proposal that exceeds specified page limits or is missing one or more of the required elements will be rejected without further review. Proposals must include the following elements:

Required Elements (with firm page limits, 6 pages for a-j):

a. Abstract (300 words or less): Briefly describe the proposed research including 1) how the research addresses one or more of the CMI Framework Areas, 2) in which Environmental Studies Program Study Area the study will take place, 3) the objectives, questions or hypotheses being tested, and 4) a brief description of the methods. The summary should be written so that it can be understood by individuals not familiar with the specific subject area.

b. Background/Relevance to BOEM: Give a brief introduction to the research problem. State how the proposal addresses BOEM Framework Areas and why it is important to Alaska offshore oil and gas development issues. Objectives/Hypotheses: Clearly define the goals to be addressed during the award period.

c. Methods/Analyses: Provide a clear description of planned methodologies and analyses.

d. Data Management, Data Security and Data Archiving Plan: If applicable, you should explain your data management plan (e.g., providing copies of data files with metadata to BOEM in a format that meets Federal data standards, archiving copies with the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), or other appropriate Federal Data Repository).

e. Field Safety Plan and Permits: For studies involving field work, applicants must provide plans for Logistics, Safety Management, and other necessary Permits.

f. Project Management: Indicate the role and anticipated level of effort for each participant in the project (student, advisor, etc.).

g. Performance Measures: List specific measures to monitor project progress, e.g., completion of fieldwork and deliverables or other project components, draft peer reviewed articles.

h. Timeline (including deliverables)

i. Project Deliverables and Planned Products: List product(s) (reports, analyses, maps, digital data, etc.) that will be delivered during the performance period. Quarterly updates, a final report, and a 2-3 page technical summary (template provided) are required. Images and data are also standard deliverables.

j. Publication and Presentation: BOEM encourages recipients to publish project reports in scientific journals. The following presentations are expected: annual oral presentation at the CMI research review in Anchorage and one other presentation at a meeting to be identified in agreement with BOEM (e.g., the Alaska Marine Science Symposium). Student Research proposals shall also include delivery of a brief summary (one page) or small poster (8½” x 11”) describing the project results in language appropriate to a non-science, lay audience.

k. Bibliography (no page limit): List all references cited in the text.

l. Curricula Vitae (maximum 2 pages).

m. Letters of Commitment: Provide a letter of support from the student’s advisor. The letter should include a clear statement regarding the student’s academic status (i.e., accepted and in good standing), the student’s ability to complete the research in the timeline given, and confirm the source of the 1:1 non-federal cost-share and other contributing sources.

n. UA Budget Spreadsheet and Justification: This should include a detailed description of how the money will be spent and the source of the 1:1 non-federal cost-share. Describe any additional funding that is supporting this project and/or the student.

Application Submission and Other Questions
Applications for CMI Student Research Awards must be submitted through Grants.gov. Please contact CMI Program Manager, Ruth Post via e-mail at rmpost@alaska.edu or phone at (907) 474-6782 or the CMI Director, Brenda Konar at bhkonar@alaska.edu with questions.