

NOAA Sea Grant 2019 Special Projects

Federal funding opportunity number NOAA-OAR-SG-2018-2005457

UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION AND ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS WORKSHOP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS updated 11/19/2018

Applying	
Regarding the January 23, 2019 deadline: is this when proposals are due to the state Sea Grant program or to the national competition? If to the state program, what is the deadline to the national competition?	January 23rd is the deadline by which all applications must be submitted to grants.gov. There is no separate earlier deadline by which applications are due to the state Sea Grant Programs. Any interested applicants must work with the Sea Grant Program to get a complete application submitted to grants.gov by the January 23rd deadline.
I am interested in partnering with a Sea Grant Program to submit an application. When do I have to have an application to them?	If you are interested in this competition, contact the Sea Grant Program now to discuss working with them on preparing an application--do not wait until you have written a proposal!
How do I contact the Sea Grant Program in my state?	Sea Grant Program contact and website information is available at https://www.seagrant.noaa.gov
The special projects FFO on grants.gov has many competitions under it. Which do I apply to?	Sea Grant Programs will submit their applications to Competition "C".
Who is the point of contact at the LMRCSC?	Dr. Margaret Sexton, masexton@umes.edu
There is no NMFS Science Center in the Great Lakes. Are the Great Lakes Sea Grant programs included in this competition?	Yes. The Great Lakes Sea Grant programs are eligible to apply for this RFP. If you have questions about who at a NMFS Science Center to contact, email oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov . The Great Lakes will be treated as a separate region.
The Special Project Announcement shows three evaluation criteria, whereas the FFO shows five evaluation criteria. Which evaluation criteria will be used?	The Special Project Announcement, with its three evaluation criteria, will be used.
Do CVs and references count towards the 15-page limit for the Project Description?	Although the FFO states that they do, the Special Project Announcement takes precedence, and states that CVs and references do NOT count towards the 15-page limit for the Project Description.
Are letters of support allowed, and if so, do they count towards the 15-page limit for the Project Description?	Letters of support are allowed and do not count towards the 15-page limit for the Project Description.
Should applicants identify the workshop evaluation strategies they propose to use?	Yes.
Do you advise applicants to describe the robust strategies that will be used to broaden participation by students from groups traditionally underrepresented in fisheries science?	We advise applicants to include this.
How will the collaboration work with the NOAA Program Officer?	The NOAA Program Officer will regularly work with the Awardee to provide advice and oversight. The Program Officer will need to approve the student application process, the workshop agenda, and the attendees list.
How will the collaboration work with the LMRCSC?	It's up to the Awardee, working with the LMRCSC, to define how this collaboration will work. The nature of the collaboration could be determined, at least partially, in advance and described in the Project Description section of the proposal.
Will the awardee be required to cover the cost of housing for the students?	Cooperative Agreement funds should cover student travel and expenses associated with the workshop. This includes the cost of housing.

Does NOAA do the student recruiting and provide a list of students who will be attending the workshop?	It is up to the Awardee to do the student recruiting. NOAA will assist by advertising the workshop(s) to students in its undergraduate programs (e.g., the Hollings Scholars). But the awardee cannot count on filling the workshop(s) with these NOAA-supported students. The awardee, working with the NOAA Program Officer and the LMRCS, will select the participating students.
Should the workshop curriculum be local, regional, or national in scope?	It's up to the applicants to select the scope of the curriculum. We expect that they will build on the expertise of the faculty and NMFS Scientists who will serve as instructors. This could be determined, at least partially, in advance and described in the Project Description section of the proposal.
Do the NMFS Scientists who serve as Instructors have to come from the same region as the Awardee?	No. The NMFS Scientists can come from any region.
Does NMFS select its Scientists who will serve as Instructors?	The Awardee will work with NMFS to select the NMFS Instructors. Applicants may offer suggestions of Instructors they propose to use in their Project Description.
Is more information about the competition available?	We will be having a webinar to discuss the competition at 3:00pm EDT on Tuesday, December 18, 2018. You can participate by registering on the Sea Grant Funding Opportunities page (https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Funding)
I can't make the webinar. Will you record it or make the slides available?	We will not be recording the webinar. The slides will be made available after the webinar at https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Funding .
Can people or institutions from different regions partner together on a proposal?	Yes.
Will people or institutions from different regions who partner together on a proposal affect their ability to compete to run a workshop next year?	It is anticipated that faculty from different institutions can partner and apply in multiple years, as long as the hosting Sea Grant program and the location of the workshop(s) rotate among the NMFS Science Center regions annually.
Does the 15-page maximum Project Description include references, CVs, and letters of support?	CVs, references, and letters of support do not count toward the 15-page limit.
Is there any limit on the number of proposals that each Sea Grant program can submit?	No.
How is the indirect rate decided for this special program?	This is treated as a standard grant. The institution submitting the proposal will have an indirect rate previously negotiated with the federal government.
Must the workshops occur at a NMFS Science Center?	PIs can propose any location for a workshop as long as they have the funds to cover it. This can include NMFS Science Centers, Universities, Marine Labs, etc.
Given there can be more than one workshop per year, how will it be considered if the workshops occur in more than one region in a given year? Is it prohibited to have any workshops in the same regions again the next year?	It is anticipated that workshop locations will rotate on an annual basis. So if two workshops take place in two regions in a single year, it is anticipated that neither region may host a workshop in the following year.
What if a Sea Grant program wants to host a workshop in another region? How does that affect the rotation?	A Sea Grant program may propose to host a workshop in a different region than the one in which it is located. It is anticipated that both the host Sea Grant program and the region of the workshop will change in the following year.
Should a draft syllabus be included in the Project Description, and if so, what should be the level of detail?	A draft syllabus is not required, but may be beneficial. It is up to the PI to decide what to include in the 15-page Project Description that will illustrate the Technical Merit of the proposal.

How exactly is cost effectiveness evaluated? For example, is it better to work with 40 students for one week or with 20 students for two weeks?	Cost effectiveness involves whether the proposal makes the most economical use of available resources to maximize project results. It is up to the PI to support their methodology in the context of the goal of the program. The Technical Review Panel will evaluate what's presented in each proposal.
Should the proposal include an exact location or is a tentative location or two options okay?	Provide as much detail as you can get. We realize that not all details are likely to be worked out at this point in time.
How much extracurricular activity are you looking for beyond classroom teaching (e.g., social events, boat time, excursions)?	It's up to each PI to determine in their proposal. Keep in mind, the idea is to introduce and recruit students into the field. Letting the students have fun during the workshop is a good idea.
Is it an advantage to have multiple institutions apply together?	Neither the FFO or the Special Projects Announcement mention the concept of having multiple institutions apply together, hence it is neither a formal advantage or a disadvantage. Having said that, a PI can attempt to make an argument that it is an advantage that would be evaluated by the Technical Review Panel.
Who will be conducting the project evaluations? NMFS? the Awardee? and outside entity?	It is the responsibility of the awardee to evaluate the effectiveness of the workshop program.
Is it up to the university to provide dorms? Can the students stay in apartments close to the workshop location?	It's up to the applicant to determine the housing they wish to use. The key point is that the housing expenses need to be covered by the cooperative agreement.
Will the evaluation protocol be used in future years or will there be a new one each time?	We hope there will be elements of the proposed evaluation protocol that are sufficiently beneficial to be used in future years, but that is to be determined.
What is the purpose of the workshop evaluation?	To evaluate how well the goal of the workshop program has been met. The goal of the workshop is to introduce and recruit students into the field of population and ecosystem dynamics.
Is the 2020 Special Projects Announcement for the Population and Ecosystem Dynamics Undergraduate Workshop written and available?	Whether or not a 2020 competition takes place is dependent on funding availability. The 2020 Special Projects Announcement (SPA) has not yet been written and may change from the 2019 SPA, based on what is learned during the process.
Do I need to name the Sea Grant Director as the PI of the project?	No. The Sea Grant Program should do what its submission office requires regarding naming of the PI on its forms, but the Project Description and CVs should refer to the actual project lead.
Do I need to include a CV for the Sea Grant Director?	No, unless the Director is playing a significant role in the execution of the project.
If my project is selected, the Sea Grant program's only role will be to issue a subaward to the actual PI's institution. How should I prepare the 90-4 budget form for the application?	The Sea Grant program should prepare a 90-4 form with data on only these lines: the total costs of the subaward on a single "Other costs" line; and the indirect costs of issuing the subaward (if any) on an "Indirect" line. In addition, a second 90-4 form should be completed that breaks down the costs of the subaward into salaries, equipment, travel, etc.
Are NEPA forms required for this competition?	The NOAA Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire is required. The questionnaire can be found at https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation .
Is a Data Management Plan required for this competition?	A Data Management Plan is only required if the proposal includes activities that will generate environmental data.

Can PIs from 2 different Sea Grant programs submit a joint proposal? Would this entail 2 separate budgets, each submitted to the respective state?	Yes. Two PIs from two different Sea Grant programs can submit a joint proposal for the Undergraduate Workshop program, but we ask that this proposal come from a single Sea Grant program, meaning one program takes the lead and submits a single overall project narrative and budget. Any other Sea Grant programs (or other entities) that are getting funded through subawards should provide itemized subaward budgets.
I have a question not listed here.	Please send questions to oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov