GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Call for Research Proposals 2019-2020

Overview
The Master of Science in Environmental Studies (MES) Program will support two student/faculty research teams during the 2019-2020 academic year. Successful students will receive salary support in the form of a Research Assistantship worth up to $13,000 over two consecutive semesters. The faculty advisor will receive $600 to support the research topic (including travel, supplies, and/or summer salary support for roster faculty on 9-month appointments). Applicants shall submit a proposal to perform environmental studies research along the lines of a thesis or internship project for the MES degree requirements.

Eligibility
• Student must be enrolled in the MES or Concurrent Program and in good academic standing
• Student must be enrolled in courses during the terms of the assistantship
• Student must have their research/internship proposal approved by their committee by August 1st for Fall/Spring or December 4 for Spring/Summer assistantship dates
• Student must have at least two semesters left to complete their program
• Faculty sponsor must be an active member of the MES faculty, roster or adjunct/affiliate status (Type I or Type II) and serving as the student's research advisor. (Contact the MES Office for questions.)

Proposal Requirements
**Research proposals in response to this call are not equivalent to an approved thesis/internship proposal. Please review the MES Handbook for thesis proposal guidelines.

- Cover Page
  * Student Name and Faculty Advisor Name
  * Project Title
  * Abstract
- Statement of Interest
- Project Description
- Faculty letter and budget description

Failure to comply with any of the requirements will result in forfeiture of the assistantship.

Evaluation Criteria
Proposals will be evaluated by an independent panel and evaluated on:
1) Scientific merit and creativity
2) Feasibility of objectives
3) Clarity of methods
4) Likelihood for success
5) Relevancy to environmental studies
Proposal Requirements (detailed)

The proposal should be single-spaced, 12-point font with 1” page margins.

- **Cover Page**
  * Student Name and Faculty Advisor Name
  * Desired terms of assistantship: Fall 2019/Spring 2020 or Spring 2020/Summer 2020
  * Project Title: Clearly identifies the project. **Maximum 20 words**
  * Abstract: A synopsis of the project relevance and methodology. **Maximum 150 words.**

- **Statement of Interest:** The student shall provide context on how the proposed research will advance their personal objectives in the MES Program and in their potential career following graduation, as well as potential plans for publication. **Maximum two (2) pages.**

- **Student Project Proposal:** Include the project proposal for which the student will be receiving their degree; this proposal narrative must be limited to **10 single-space pages** (which means students must edit their longer proposals to be concise). Under no circumstances is this proposal to be written by a faculty member, though the advisor and all committee members are expected to have contributed to the editing and refining of the projects research design.

- **Faculty Letter and Budget Description:** The faculty member supervising the work shall also include a letter of support briefly describing the project and the broader impacts of the work, as well as a budget and budget description including justification for any requested faculty funding support.

*Important Dates*

- **Proposals Due:**
  - May 20, 2019
- **Notification of Award:**
  - By June 20, 2019
- **Approved Proposal Due:**
  - Fall 2019/Spring 2020
    - August 1, 2019
  - Spring 2020/Summer 2020
    - December 4, 2019
- **Progress/Final Report Due:**
  - Fall 2019/Spring 2020
    - Dec. 16, 2019/May 12, 2020
  - Spring 2020/Summer 2020
    - June 9, 2020/Sept. 8, 2020

**Feedback**

Research proposal packets will be sent to reviewers anonymously. All applicants will receive anonymous reviewers’ comments after awards are announced.

**Progress Report Requirements**

- **Progress report:** provide information on methods development (or changes since proposal), initial results, relevant project meetings, and any related publications or presentations regarding the project. **Maximum two (2) pages.**

- **Final report:** provide a summary statement for the project (500 words maximum). Describe any changes in the proposed activities and provide a narrative that lists the details of the projects, the results (with figures and tables as appropriate), implications of the work, and list of cited literature. **Maximum six (6) pages.**

**Submissions**

The student/faculty team should submit all materials in one PDF document to davislh@cofc.edu by the deadline. **Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.**