Overview of the NWRI Fellowship Program

The National Water Research Institute (NWRI) periodically awards funding to support graduate student research related to:

- Water science and technology related to quality, treatment, and distribution
- Water resources management
- Water policy and regulations

Applications are being accepted from January 15 until April 3, 2020, for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Funded research must support NWRI’s mission to advance water resources science, policy, and innovation. Research areas include, but are not limited to: engineering, physical + chemical sciences, biological sciences, health sciences, environmental and natural resources sciences, political sciences, economics, design + planning, public policy, and regulatory issues related to water resources management.

To be eligible for an award, students must be enrolled full-time in an accredited graduate program in the United States.

Funds are provided by the NWRI Fellowship Funding Partners and NWRI Member Agencies.

NWRI Fellowship Funding Partners

American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA)

The mission of AMTA is to promote and advance the application of membrane technology to create safe, affordable, and reliable water supplies, and to treat municipal, industrial, agricultural, and wastewater for beneficial use. Click here to learn more about AMTA.
BioLargo, Inc.
A sustainable science, technology, and full-service environmental engineering company, BioLargo has a mission to improve the quality of life for people worldwide by providing services to deliver clean water, clean air, and advanced wound care. Click here to learn more.

Orange County Chapter, WateReuse California
The WateReuse Association works to advance laws, policy, funding, and public acceptance of recycled water. Its membership includes utilities, businesses, and consumers. The Orange County Chapter’s mission includes facilitating the development of technology that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of recycling water. Click here to learn more.

Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC)
SCSC is a coalition of water and wastewater agencies in Southern California dedicated to managing salinity in our water supplies. They support research to address the critical need to remove salt from water supplies and preserve water resources. Click here to learn more.

NWRI Member Agencies
NWRI Member Agencies are water and wastewater utilities in Southern California that support our mission to collaborate with utilities, regulators, and researchers in innovative ways to help develop new, healthy sources of drinking water.

Inland Empire Utility Agency
Irvine Ranch Water District
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Orange County Sanitation District
Orange County Water District
West Basin Municipal Water District
Click here to learn more about the NWRI Member Agencies.
Fellowships Offered in 2020

NWRI Member Agency Graduate Fellowship: $5,000

Research must be related to developing and/or enhancing drinking water supplies and water resources in general. Research topics may include: New treatment technologies; improvements to existing treatment and management technologies; sustainability issues, including water/energy nexus; water policy and regulation; and natural resource economics.

NWRI-BioLargo Graduate Fellowship: $5,000

Research must be related to technical and scientific aspects of advanced water and wastewater treatments. Research topics may include: New treatment technologies; improvements to existing technologies; disinfection processes; and exploratory research.

NWRI-AMTA Graduate Fellowships for Membrane Technology: $10,000

Research must be related to the advancement of membrane technology in the water, wastewater, or water reuse industries, and must be consistent with AMTA’s mission to solve water supply and quality issues through the widespread application of membrane technology. Research topics may include: Membrane bioreactors (MBRs), fouling and scaling control, efficiency (removal, recovery, energy use, pretreatment processes, and membrane materials.

NWRI-WateReuse California/Orange County Chapter Graduate Fellowship: $5,000

Research must be related to the advancement of recycled water treatment technology and policy, for either potable or non-potable reuse of water.

NWRI-Southern California Salinity Coalition Graduate Fellowship: $10,000

The student must be enrolled at an accredited college or university in Southern California. Research must address the critical need to remove or reduce salts from water supplies, and to preserve water resources in Southern California. Research topics may include: Concentrate management, institutional and regulatory/policy issues, economic analysis, and innovative treatment technologies.
Application Elements

1. **NWRI Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist**

   Download this form from the NWRI website at [www.nwri-usa.org/fellowship.htm](http://www.nwri-usa.org/fellowship.htm)

2. **Summary of Goals/Original Research Proposal (max 2,000 words/four pages)**

Use 11-point Calibri, Times New Roman, or a similar typeface, and include the following:

**Brief BACKGROUND about yourself** (one paragraph), including:

- What past experiences (academic, professional, personal) have contributed to your interest in water resources?
- Why are you interested in this research topic?

**Brief OVERVIEW of your research project**, including the following:

- Why is this research important to you and to those working in water sciences?
- How will your research contribute something new to the field of water science?
- What do you expect to accomplish with this project?

**Brief PROPOSAL for your project.** Focus on higher-level concepts and the critical needs your research addresses rather than on the technical details and data results. Those reviewing your proposal will have expertise in water science, but likely no knowledge of your topic. Include the following information in your proposal:

- Title of your project
- Hypothesis
- Goals/objectives
  - Explanation of the need(s) your research addresses
  - Evidence for the originality of your research
  - Discussion of how your research serves the greater good
• Approach/plan for your research project
• Timetable for completion of the project

3. **Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume (one page maximum)**

Include relevant professional experience, volunteer service, internships, research and teaching assistant positions, extracurricular research projects, and the like. List the full titles of all publications you authored. For conference presentations, provide the name, date, and location of the conference, along with the names of co-authors and their affiliations.

4. **Letter of Support from your faculty advisor with signature (two pages maximum)**

The letter of support may be addressed to the NWRI Fellowship Coordinator. Your advisor can either email a PDF of the letter to you to include with your application, or email it to fellow@nwri-usa.org with the subject line: Fellowship Support Letter [YOUR NAME].

*If your advisor gives the letter directly to you, please cc: your advisor when you submit your application so that s/he knows you have submitted their letter to NWRI.*

Advisors should address the following items in the letter (two pages maximum):

• Originality and technical merit of the proposed research
• Applicant’s preparation and prospects for successful completion of the project
• Resources and support the applicant and their research are receiving, including:
  • Facilities, personnel, and equipment available
  • Financial support and institutional commitment by the University
  • Any other awards or fellowships that the student has or will receive to support this research.
  Please note that having additional fellowships or scholarships does not affect eligibility to receive and NWRI Fellowship
  • Description of how NWRI Fellowship funding will be leveraged. Note that a Fellowship from NWRI is intended to enhance the student’s current resources and support. It is not intended to replace existing funding.

NWRI has a long-standing policy that research office/indirect costs **MAY NOT** be charged against the Fellowship award. The NWRI Fellowship Coordinator will work with the appropriate university offices of awardees if necessary.
Application Submission Process

All applications must arrive as a single PDF by email (fellow@nwri-usa.org) on or before 11:59 PM Pacific Time on April 3, 2020 to qualify for consideration.

Email the following items to NWRI as a single PDF:

- NWRI Fellowship Application Cover Sheet and Checklist
- Summary of Goals/Original Research Proposal (max 2000 words, including references)
- CV/Resume (1 page maximum)
- *Letter of Support from Faculty Advisor (2 pages maximum)
- Label the file with your name using the format “Last Name.First Name.NWRI.Fellowship”

*If your advisor prefers to submit the letter directly to NWRI, ask her/him to email a PDF to fellow@nwri-usa.org with the subject line: Fellowship Support Letter [YOUR NAME].

Format your email message as follows:

To: fellow@nwri-usa.org
From: your email address
Subject: 2020 Fellowship Application [Your Name]

Include your name, email address, and phone number in the body of your email message.

Fellowship Terms and Requirements

Fellowship awardees will be announced in summer of 2020. Those selected to receive a fellowship will be contacted by phone and email. Those not selected will be notified by email.

All awardees will receive a follow-up letter via email outlining the terms and conditions of the fellowship. Award money will be sent directly to the awardee’s university.
Selections and awards made by NWRI shall be final.

**Fellows must meet the following requirements:**

The Fellow must be continuously enrolled as a full-time graduate student at an accredited college or university in the United States.

Fellows will document their progress by providing a short (three to four pages) progress report to NWRI by the required deadline. The progress reports will be posted to the NWRI website and shared with the NWRI e-newsletter recipients (10,000+ members), as well as the NWRI Partners, Member Agencies, and Corporate Associates.

Fellows may be asked to participate in events sponsored by NWRI and partners. For example, the AMTA fellows will attend the annual AMTA/AWWA Membrane Technology Conference.

For more information, visit [www.NWRI-usa.org/Fellowship.htm](http://www.NWRI-usa.org/Fellowship.htm)

**Contact:**

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