2022 Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves Graduate Student Research Grant Application
Due March 15, 2022

Overview and Instructions

Background and Eligibility

We anticipate giving several awards of up to $1,500 each. Studies must be conducted at, or based out of **Valentine Camp** or the **Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL)**.

Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college or university while conducting their research. In the case of summer research, enrollment during the preceding spring quarter/semester and clear intent to enroll in fall quarter/ semester is acceptable as is proof of acceptance.

Prior or concurrent recipients of NRS student research grants (Mathias Graduate Student Research Grant or VESR Grant) are eligible for the 2022 competition. Please attach a brief progress report if such funding was received.

Application Procedure

Applications and supporting documents are due by **March 15, 2022** at **5 PM**, and should be submitted via email to the VESR Director at carol.blanchette@ucsb.edu

This application is an Adobe Acrobat form, and should be completed and saved as a pdf document. The required supporting documents may also be included with the application and saved and submitted as a single pdf file.

Required Supporting Documents:

1.   A letter of reference from a supervising faculty member or advisor indicating his/her support for the proposed research, including its merits for funding by the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves (VESR), and the ability of the student to conduct the research and meet established deadlines. This may be submitted as a separate email if the advisor prefers.
2.   Current Curriculum Vitae (2 page maximum)
3.   Recipients of previous NRS student research grants (e.g. Mathias or VESR grants) must submit a one-page report (final or progress) of the previously funded project.
4.   A list of any permits that are required to carry out the research, and/or copies of the permits or applications.

Timeline and Award Requirements
•   The Reserve Director, in consultation with a review panel, will make final awards decisions by April 1, 2022.
•   Successful applicants must submit copies of appropriate collecting permits, animal care committee approvals, campus accounting information, and some brief biographical information (details will be provided) before awards will be disbursed.
•   Funds will be held in an account at UCSB, and administered by UCSB. Funds may only be used for the expenses described in the proposal budget.
•   It is expected that funds will be used in calendar year 2022. Award funds may be carried forward with the approval of the Reserve Director. Please submit a brief justification for any needed carry-forwards by December 15, 2022.
•   Awardees must submit a progress report to the Reserve Director by December 15, 2022. Applicants will be disqualified from future VESR grant programs if they do not comply with this requirement.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Merit of the proposed research**: Evaluation of research quality will be based on the importance of the problem, originality, statement of research questions or hypothesis, sampling design and analysis, preliminary information supporting the feasibility of the proposed research, and likelihood of success.

2. **Reserve dependence**: Research must take place on the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves (SNARL or Valentine Camp), or sites located in the region of the reserves. Some use of one or both of the reserves is required. However, off-site areas in the region of the reserves may be used more than sites on the reserves. Higher scores will be assigned for research that takes advantage of special reserve conditions, such as a history of related research, occurrence of unique/special conditions or resources, need for protection of experimental treatments, and so forth.
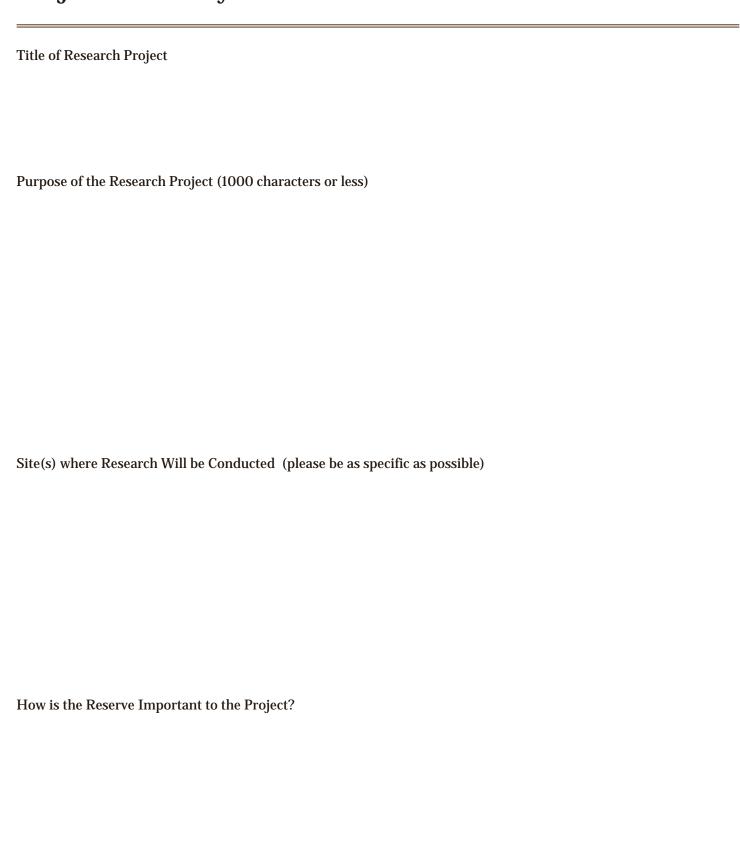
Additional considerations

The following criteria will also be taken into consideration:
1. The feasibility of completing research as stated in the application.
2. Previous VESR funding and other funding. Preference will be given to projects lacking other support.
3. Satisfactory progress on research funded by prior grants (if applicable).
4. Preference will be given to proposals for research directly related to the student's dissertation research.

Applicant Information

Name

University

Department

E-mail

Mailing Address

City   State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Name of Academic Advisor

Academic Advisor's E-mail

Have you ever received a Mildred E. Mathias Graduate Student Research Grant?

Yes   No

Have you ever received a VESR student grant?

Yes   No

Project Summary

Title of Research Project

Purpose of the Research Project (1000 characters or less)

Site(s) where Research Will be Conducted (please be as specific as possible)

How is the Reserve Important to the Project?

Project Description

Introduction: Background, Problem Statement, Objectives and Hypotheses
(4000 characters or less (including spaces))

Research Plan: Methods, Experimental Design and Analyses
(4000 characters or less (including spaces))

Anticipated Significance: Broader Impacts and Relevance to the Natural Reserve System
(4000 characters or less (including spaces))

Timeline: Planned dates for project activities, including final report submission
(2000 characters or less (including spaces))

References Cited:

Budget Information

List the items for which support is requested, their cost, and the total amount requested.

Allowable costs: Funding may be requested for: Reserve user fees (lab space, housing, etc.) and necessary supplies. We do not fund travel or mileage, but will allow a supplement of up to $200 for gas to travel to and from the reserve and to and from field sites.

Non-allowable costs: salary; food; travel or mileage; preparation of thesis copy; publication costs; purchase of classroom books; purchase of computers and printers; laboratory fees at facilities other than SNARL.

Itemized List of Necessary Supplies Requested and Associated Costs

Itemized List of Fees charged by the Reserve for which support is requested (housing, lab space, etc.)

Other Costs

Total Request ($1500 maximum)

List of all funding sources for this project (include pending grants to you and your advisor) and how this grant would supplement these funding sources.