



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

2022-2025 Aquaculture Outreach & Communications Graduate Fellowship Program

The Florida Sea Grant College Program is soliciting applications for a graduate student fellowship in aquaculture outreach and communications. The fellowship provides a unique educational opportunity for an early career aquaculture specialist with interest and/or background in outreach and science communication to gain hands-on experience working towards sustainable aquaculture development.

This Fellowship will provide a current graduate student the opportunity to engage with the dynamic team of Florida Sea Grant (FSG) extension agents who work with state and federal agencies, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and members of the Florida coastal community, to identify emerging issues in the development of an offshore aquaculture industry in Florida, conduct applied communications research and activities, and share findings with stakeholder groups. Together, the statewide extension team will support, and connect the fellow to appropriate stakeholders (i.e., academic researchers, industry leaders, non-profit organizations, non-government organizations, and K-12 educators). The extension fellow will gain professional experience in planning, implementation, and management, providing a unique educational opportunity for students interested in outreach and communications pertaining to marine resources utilization. The fellow will also work with science communications professionals to facilitate the development and dissemination of outreach and communications products intended to educate stakeholders on the issues involving the development of this sector of Florida's Blue Economy.

Florida Sea Grant anticipates funding 2-3 Fellowships, each capped at \$50,000, over the course of 9/1/22 – 1/21/2025. Fellowship competitions will be open on a rolling basis beginning with this one focusing on ***marine finfish aquaculture***. Fellowships will require a 25% match.

The goals of this fellowship are to achieve the following with respect to the focus area identified for each opportunity:

- To encourage qualified applicants to pursue careers in science communication with a focus on coastal and ocean issues;
- To increase available expertise in science-based communication about aquaculture and its contribution to Florida's Blue Economy;
- To foster science-based understanding of the issues involving aquaculture among academic scientists, industry, non-profit organizations and the general public; and
- To provide professional experiences for graduate students that accelerate their career development.

Description of Activities/Products Expected

This opportunity will provide the fellow with a professional experience that will add value to an academically-oriented career path and/or contribute to a career in science-based outreach and communication. The fellow will enhance their skills and knowledge related to marine and coastal science outreach and communication, through interactions with Florida Sea Grant's Extension and communications programs. Interested students may orient their applications towards the following types of activities and products:

- Writing to promote offshore finfish aquaculture literacy for the general public;
- Producing visual, multimedia, video, web, or audio products to communicate research or topics relevant to offshore finfish aquaculture in particular;
- Organizing virtual and in-person events to communicate about offshore aquaculture to the public, including demystifying the industry, debunking misinformation, and networking with organizations and groups that may support or not support this activity;
- Producing and publishing educational content for social media, analyzing engagement, and collaborating with FSG to develop and distribute communication products;

Eligibility

Applications are sought from students close to completing an advanced degree (Masters, Ph.D., or J.D) at an accredited Florida university in a field pertinent to the development of an aquaculture industry in Florida, and with experience or interest in science outreach and communication. Applicants must be students at the time of application.

Sea Grant is committed to increasing the diversity of the Sea Grant workforce and of the communities we serve. Sea Grant embraces individuals of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, job classifications, veteran status types, and income, and socioeconomic status types. Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication, and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives and ways of thinking.

Budget

The fellowship will pay up to \$50,000 for up to one year. Eligible budget items include stipend, tuition, fees, health insurance, travel, materials and supplies and workshop expenses. University of Florida indirect costs will not be assessed for this student-oriented program. A justification is needed for each budgeted item that is commensurate with the proposed project activities. Include proposed starting and end dates.

A 25% match is required and can be met with commitment of other non-federal university resources and/or resources provided by partner companies or organizations. The source and value of the match must be identified and described.

Length of Assignment

Earliest start date is September 1, 2022; the end date of the program will be one-year after the start date.

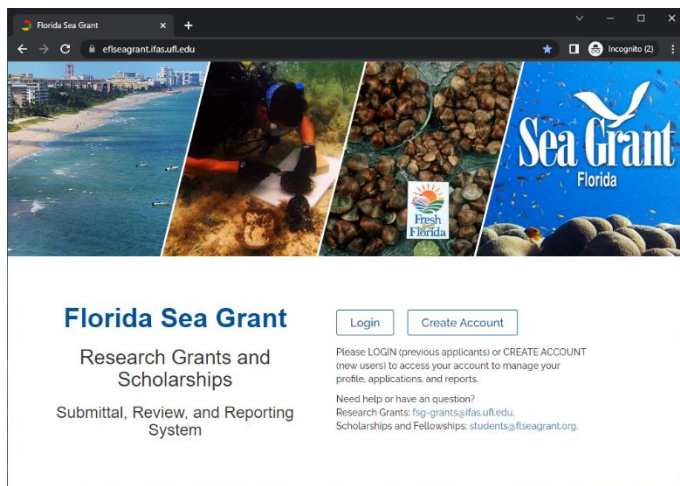
The Application

A complete application will include documents 1-6 described below:

1. Resume/curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages using 12-point font).
2. Personal education and career goal statement that emphasizes the applicant's abilities and interest in science communication, and the applicant's expectations of the career development experience (500 words or less).
3. Draft blog: written by the applicant about aquaculture, preferably on the focus of this opportunity, for a general audience. (500 words or less)
4. Project proposal narrative not to exceed five pages, that summarizes the need, objectives, methods, and timeline of the Extension and communications project/activities being proposed. The narrative can include a statement of leveraged funding or activities that this project will build upon and/or augment. The itemized budget for funding and for match and associated justification/description must be included as well.
5. Student undergraduate and graduate transcripts. Unofficial copies will be accepted.
6. One letter of professional recommendation. From a faculty advisor or supervisor who is familiar with the applicant's capabilities and potential in the area of science outreach and communication.

To submit your application using the Florida eSeaGrant site, items 1-5 should be combined into a single pdf file; the letter of recommendation are submitted separately in eSeaGrant, as described below:

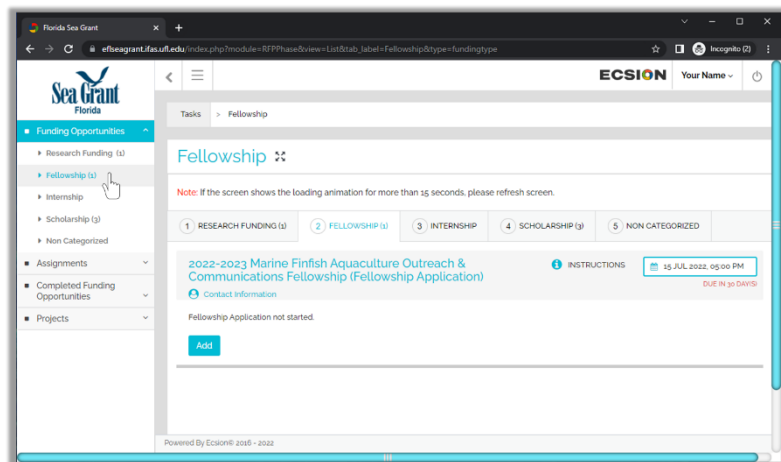
How to Submit Your Application



Your application must be submitted using Florida Sea Grant's online submission portal:

<https://eflseagrant.ifas.ufl.edu>

First time users should create an account while previous users should log in using their pre-established credentials.

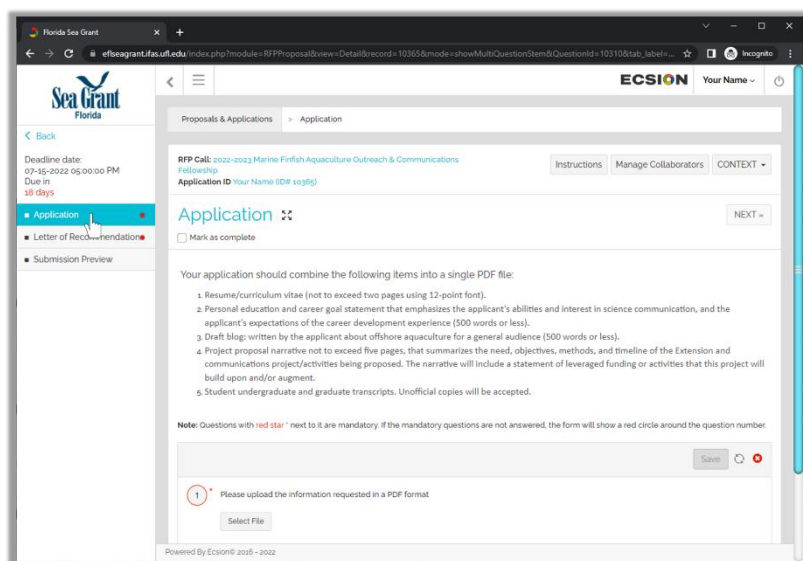


When you log in successfully, you should see an image like the one on the left. The forms for this application are found under the Funding Opportunities > Fellowship.

As you can see in the image, the "2022-2023 Marine Finfish Aquaculture Outreach & Communications Fellowship" opportunity is currently open. Click on the Add button.

This fellowship application has only 2 forms: Application form and the Letter of Recommendation form (as you will see on the left side of the submittal system). By default, the Application form appears.

The submittal system works using forms. Forms are listed on the left panel. Read the instructions for each form, then provide the information requested. When done, click the Save button (on the lower right corner of the screen).



To help you identify which forms have not been completed yet there is a red dot next to the name of each form (left panel). When you click on the box "Mark as complete" on each form the dot will change from red to green.

Within each form you will find fields with a red star *. These fields are **mandatory**. If you submit your application with no information for the mandatory fields your application will be incomplete.

Your application should combine the required items (1-5) into a single PDF file. Please make sure to use your last name in the file's name (e.g., Smith_application.pdf). When naming the document please do not use apostrophes. Once submitted through the website, PDFs may not be edited. To change a PDF, it must be deleted and resubmitted.

TIP: Don't forget to click on the **Save** button every time you upload a file and/or add any information.

After you completed entering the information on the Application form, on the left side pane, click on the Letter of Recommendation form to open it (see image below).

To maintain confidentiality, letters of recommendation should be submitted directly from the writer to Florida Sea Grant through eSeaGrant and must be submitted by the application deadline to be considered.

The screenshot shows the Florida Sea Grant eSeaGrant application form. The left sidebar has a menu with 'Application', 'Letter of Recommendation', and 'Submission Preview'. The 'Letter of Recommendation' tab is selected. The main content area shows the 'Letter of Recommendation' form. At the top, it says 'RFP Call: 2022-2023 Marine Finfish Aquaculture Outreach & Communications Fellowship' and 'Application ID: Your Name (ID# 10365)'. Below this, there is a 'Mark as complete' checkbox. The form includes instructions for students and a 'Request Document' button in the lower left corner. There are also 'IMPORTANT TIPS' listed at the bottom.

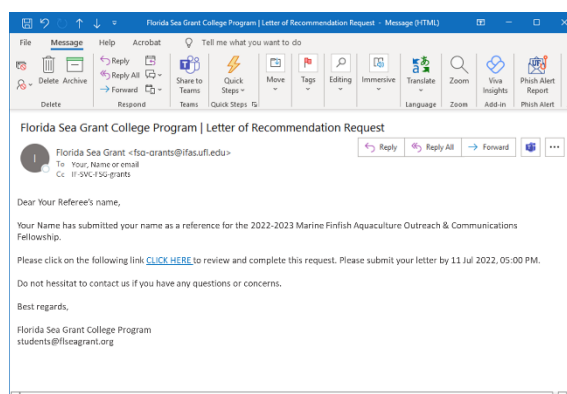
When you open the Letter of Recommendation tab, you will see the instructions to students and to the letter writer. Read these instructions carefully, then click on the **Request Document** button (lower left corner of the form – if needed scroll down).

This screenshot shows the 'Letter of Recommendation' form with the 'Info about person providing the document' section expanded. It includes fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email', and 'Requested By Date'. There is also a section for 'Optional File for Review by Recipient' with a 'Choose File' button. The 'Send Request' and 'Clear' buttons are at the bottom right.

Enter the letter writer (referee) information for this sub-form. The Requested by Date option allows you to request to your referee to submit your letter of recommendation by the entered date – instead of the applications deadline. This gives you the opportunity to review and if needed resend the request with enough time to make adjustments before the application deadline.

After you enter the required information and click on the **Send Request** button, your referee will receive an email with instructions and a link to upload their letter of recommendation by the requested date.

You can come back to the Florida Sea Grant submittal site and check the status of your letter of recommendation. They are listed below the Request Document button in your Letter of Recommendation form.



After completing both forms (Application and Letter of Recommendation), click on the Submission Preview (left pane).

The screenshot shows the 'Submission Preview' page in the eSeaGrant system. The left sidebar has a menu with 'Submission Preview' highlighted. The main content area shows the 'Submission Preview' title and a 'SUBMIT' button. Below this, there is a section for 'FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION SUBMISSION PREVIEW' which includes a table for 'Letters of Recommendation'.

Name	Email	Requested By	Status
Name of your Letter Writer 1	referee1@email.com	11 Jul 2022, 05:00 PM	Submitted

Scroll down and review the information.

When all the mandatory and optional information has been entered in the forms, click on the **SUBMIT** button (upper right corner).

It is your responsibility to submit all the required information. After the deadline, only applications with **COMPLETE MANDATORY** information will be accepted.

After you submit an application you should receive an email notification. You can re-submit the information as many times as you want until the deadline date and time.

For technical issues with submitting your application through eSeaGrant please contact students@flseagrant.org or (352) 392-5870.

Application deadline: July 15, 2022, 5:00 PM EDT

NOTE: the eSeaGrant “Marine Finfish Aquaculture Outreach & Communications Fellowship” application portal will close at the date and time stated above, and late applications (even 1 minute late) cannot be accepted. It is your responsibility to get materials submitted before the deadline.

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Strength of Resume / CV and Educational Transcripts (10%)
- Education and Career Goal Statement (20%)
- Blog (20%)
- Project Narrative (40%)
- Letter of recommendation (10%)

Important Dates

- July 15, 2022 (5:00 pm EDT): Applications due
- August 1, 2022 (approximate): Finalist is notified of selection
- September 1, 2022: Earliest date fellowship can begin
- Fellowship will end one-year from the start date