

2016

DIGITAL COAST FELLOWSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What master's, doctoral, or professional degree program does someone need to complete to be eligible for the fellowship?

A: For the 2016 fellowship, applicants must complete a master's, doctoral, or professional degree by July 31, 2016, to be eligible. A broad range of degrees are applicable to the fellowship because the projects are new and different each year. Previous fellows have had degrees in environmental studies, natural resource management, marine affairs, marine science, geology, public affairs, and regional land management. The most important prerequisite is an interest in coastal issues.

Q: What is the length of a fellowship project?

A: Fellowship projects are two years long. For instance, the 2016 fellowship will start in August 2016 and end in August 2018.

Q: What is the salary for the Digital Coast Fellowship?

A: The current salary is \$34,000 per year. In the second year of the fellowship, a locality pay factor may be added to the salary, depending on the location of the fellowship.

Q: How do fellows get paid?

A: All of the benefits, including salary, are administered by an outside contractor through a contract with the NOAA Office for Coastal Management.

Q: What other benefits, in addition to salary, are included as part of the fellowship?

A: Health insurance, worker's compensation, relocation reimbursement, and travel reimbursement.

Q: How much relocation reimbursement do fellows receive?

A: Fellows will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 to move to their fellowship location and up to \$1,000 to move at the end of the two-year fellowship. If relocation is not required or the fellowship is not completed, relocation reimbursement will not be provided.

Q: How much travel reimbursement do fellows receive?

A: Fellows will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 per year for professional development travel. A separate pot of money will be set aside for fellows to travel to specific meetings and conferences required by the fellowship program. Any travel related to their project will be reimbursed by the host organization.

Q: Do fellows have contact with one another during the fellowship?

A: The fellows see each other at events throughout their fellowships. In even years, the fellows attend the Social Coast Forum, and in odd years they attend the Coastal GeoTools Conference. All fellows also attend two Digital Coast partner meetings and a dedicated fellowship meeting.

For more information about the Digital Coast Fellowship, please visit the website at coast.noaa.gov/fellowship/digitalcoast.html.



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Fellow Eligibility and Selection

Eligibility

Any student completing a master's, doctoral, or professional degree program in natural resource management or environment-related studies at an accredited U.S. university between January 1, 2015, and July 31, 2016, is eligible to apply for the Digital Coast Fellowship. Students from a broad range of environmental programs are encouraged to apply. Students from non-U.S. institutions are not eligible.

All applications must include the following items:

1. Resume or curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages using 12 pt. font).
2. Statement of the applicant's goals with emphasis on what the applicant expects from and can contribute to the fellowship experience (500 words or less).
3. Two letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant's principal professor. If no principal professor exists, the faculty member who is most familiar with the applicant's academic work may be substituted.
4. Unofficial copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.

How to Apply

Application packages must be submitted to the NOAA Office for Coastal Management by May 6, 2016. Emailed applications in PDF format are preferred. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

Finalists are selected based on the following criteria:

1. Academic performance and diversity of educational background, including extracurricular activities, awards, and honors.
2. Support from two letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant's principal professor.
3. Content of the applicant's goal statement.

All qualified applicants will be considered regardless of age, race, sex, creed, marital status, national origin, lawful political affiliation, religious preference, or nondisqualifying physical handicap.

