



NORTHWEST Climate Adaptation Science Center

Immediate Funding Opportunity: Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Research Fellowship Program

The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) invites proposals for its 2019-2020 Research Fellowship Program from *graduate students* at University of Washington (UW), Boise State University (BSU), University of Montana (UM), Washington State University (WSU) and Western Washington University (WWU) and *postdoctoral scientists* at BSU, UM, WSU, and WWU (this fellowship cannot support postdocs at UW). The NW CASC Fellowship Program provides both support for research related to climate adaptation in Northwest natural and cultural resource management and instruction of funded fellows in the principles and practices of co-producing decision-relevant (“actionable”) science. Funding will be available as early as Fall Term 2019, to support research performed during the 2019-2020 academic year (see below for information about specific funding period). **Proposals are due April 15, 2019.**

Program Overview The Department of the Interior (DOI) Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center was established to help safeguard the natural and cultural resources of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana) by providing managers and policy-makers with accessible science on climate change impacts and adaptation actions. The NW CASC is hosted by the UW in partnership with BSU, UM, WSU and WWU.

The NW CASC Research Fellowship Program¹ aims to support the development of science relevant to natural and cultural resource managers facing climate-related risks and challenges. To achieve this aim, the program supports research involving graduate students and postdoctoral scientists and provides instruction in the principles and practices of co-production of decision-relevant (“actionable”) science.

Research Support. The NW CASC Fellowship will support research relevant to identifying and addressing climate impacts in Northwest natural and cultural resource management. Research must demonstrate actionable science principles (e.g., identify co-production partners and plans for engaging those partners). The program will support both research to generate new knowledge and efforts focused on synthesizing, assessing and interpreting existing knowledge for application in specific management contexts.

Prospective Fellows are strongly advised to seek out, establish, and clearly describe working partnerships with local or regional stakeholders from organizations concerned with management of

¹ <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/science/research-fellowship-program/>

natural or cultural resources. These organizations should include bureaus within the U.S. Department of the Interior and/or Northwest Tribes, but may also include other Federal agencies, State agencies, and private or non-governmental entities. Proposals that demonstrate clear engagement with stakeholders from such organizations, showing benefits through a collaborative process, will be evaluated more favorably.

In keeping with its mission, the NW CASC identifies research priorities that are tied closely to the needs of natural and cultural resource managers. Proposals developed in response to this funding opportunity should focus on developing knowledge that can be directly applied to specific management challenges, either locally or broadly across landscapes in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and western Montana. Proposals should target one or more issues faced by U.S. Department of the Interior bureaus and, when feasible, other federal, state, and/or tribal resource management organizations to generate knowledge and strategies to advance climate adaptation in the Northwest.

Research should also be relevant to at least one **NW CASC science priority areas** detailed in the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2018-2023²:

- Managing aquatic resources
- Managing at-risk species and habitats
- Managing invasives and diseases
- Managing forest ecosystems
- Managing shrubland ecosystems
- Managing working lands and waters
- Incorporating human dimensions of climate adaptation

Because the NW CASC funding year ends July 31, the program can guarantee only *partial* summer term support, i.e., through July 31, 2020. However, depending on continued program funding and satisfactory progress by the Fellow, extensions into the next project year to provide full summer support may be granted. Because of this uncertainty, summer support cannot include tuition for summer terms ending after July 31.

Instruction in Actionable Science. NW CASC Research Fellows learn about and practice actionable science principles and practices through a variety of activities, including skills development and network enhancement activities:

- *Cohort Meetings.* Fellows will participate in monthly meetings using video conferencing services to facilitate group learning and cohort building. Cohort meetings will provide an opportunity for Fellows to discuss challenges/opportunities encountered in their research projects, particularly related to their co-production and actionable science efforts.
- *Skills-Building Webinars.* Fellows will attend NW CASC's fall- and spring-quarter Actionable Climate Science Skills-building Webinars series, which are designed to help those engaged in climate impacts research better understand the range of approaches for developing actionable science.³
- *Actionable Science Graduate Seminar.* Fellows will participate (in-person and via web conferencing) in a winter-quarter UW seminar: *The Theory and Practice of Linking*

² <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/science/science-agenda/>

³ <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/resources/actionable-science-webinars/>

Knowledge with Action to Address Modern Environmental Challenges. This reading and discussion-based seminar reviews foundational and emerging literature that explores the science and practice of linking of knowledge and action (e.g., co-production, knowledge brokering, transdisciplinarity) in the context of climate change adaptation.

- *NW Climate Conference*. Fellows will be supported to attend and present their work at the annual NW Climate Conference (October 8-10, 2019; Portland, Oregon).⁴
- *Science/Practice Deep-Dive Workshop*. Fellows will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation of the NW CASC annual “deep dive” workshop. These workshops combine assessment of the state of science and the state of practice related to complex climate adaptation challenges in the NW.

Criteria for Funding of NW CASC Research Fellowships

Proposed research projects must:

- Be relevant to management decisions related to identifying and addressing climate impacts on Northwest natural and cultural resource management and science priorities of the NW CASC,
- Involve graduate students (at UW, BSU, UM, WSU, and WWU) or postdoctoral scientists (at BSU, UM, WSU, and WWU; this fellowship cannot support postdocs at UW) who are committed to participating in the Fellowship training activities described above,
- Demonstrate actionable science principles (e.g., identify co-production partners and plans for engaging those partners) and be based on a demonstrably effective relationship with natural or cultural resource managers or other stakeholders in a DOI bureau, state fish and wildlife agency, or tribe,
- Be described in a proposal submitted jointly by a faculty member (students’/postdocs’ major advisor) and the prospective fellow,
- Be designed to produce substantive results and deliverables during the 2019-2020 academic year.

The NW CASC Research Fellowship funding can be used to initiate a new research project; to support, extend or complete an ongoing research project; or to extend ongoing research to support management decisions. It can be used to support research to generate new knowledge or efforts focused on synthesizing, assessing and interpreting existing knowledge for application in specific management contexts.

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrably leverage other efforts and resources (e.g., tuition cost-share or funding from other governmental and private organizations) and for which NW CASC funding will make a demonstrable difference. Start date, duration, and funding level of individual awards are negotiable based on the project timeline, needs of the prospective fellow and funding available from other sources. Previous awards have averaged around \$30,000, with a range of \$8,000 to \$65,000. Because of UW matching funds, total allowed award costs from UW fellows are calculated *excluding* tuition and indirect costs.

⁴ <https://www.nwclimateconference.org/>

Application and Selection Process:

Please send applications in a single PDF file by email to nwcasc@uw.edu by **11:59 pm on April 15, 2019**. Include the following documents:

1. Cover page listing the following information:
 - a. Name and contact information of prospective fellow
 - b. Current level (graduate student: MS/PhD, postdoc)
 - c. Department of study
 - d. Name and contact information of faculty advisor
 - e. Project title
 - f. Geographic location (if relevant)
 - g. Brief (2 sentence) project description
 - h. Specific outcomes/products anticipated during period of funding
 - i. List of external partners
 - j. Total requested funding
 - k. Leveraged support
2. Letter of support from the faculty advisor (1 page). The faculty member's letter must indicate a justification for the research, endorsement of the student's/postdoc's proposed research and support for the student's/postdoc's participation in the NW CASC Fellowship Program activities. Please indicate at what percentage time and for how many and which months fellowship support is desired. The faculty letter is not simply a letter of recommendation.
3. Letter of application from the prospective fellow (1-2 pages *maximum*). The application letter should include the applicant's reason for seeking a NW CASC Fellowship; the importance of the research topic in the NW region; its relevance to the NW CASC science priority areas; and relevance of the Fellowship training to their career objectives and previous experience.
4. Concise summary of the proposed research (2-3 pages) including the following as appropriate to the project:
 - a. Narrative; introduction, justification, purpose, background, goals/objectives.
 - b. Research design, methods, and plans for analysis.
 - c. Timeline, tasks to be completed.
 - d. Intended deliverables and products, plans for interaction with intended users (managers and other stakeholders preparing to deal with the challenges and opportunities of climate change), and application of outcomes throughout the life of the project, and beyond.
5. Budget details, including, as appropriate, salaries, benefits rates, tuition, supplies, travel, and indirect (F&A) rates for specific terms, including summer if applicable. Please use the sample budget excel spreadsheet available here: <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/resources/funding-opportunities/>.
6. A brief statement of support from an external partner or stakeholder (*e.g.*, in a governmental agency, tribe, NGO, or similar organization) describing their involvement in the project and the expected impact of the data, analyses, or other knowledge or resources produced in supporting their decisions regarding management of climate risks.
7. CV of the prospective fellow.

To be eligible, the graduate student or postdoctoral scholar must be currently enrolled (and in good standing), employed, or accepted to begin enrollment or employment by Fall Term 2019, and

advised by the faculty member preparing the proposal. Progress on the proposed research is required to be documented with a progress report, due by May 15, and a final report due within one month after the end of their NW CASC Fellowship funding. Please note that students who have previously received funding through the NW CASC Fellowship Program are not eligible to apply for additional funding.

Applications will be reviewed based on the promise shown by the prospective fellows, the salience of their work to NW CASC priorities and the criteria noted above, the degree to which their work effectively leverages other efforts and sources of funding, and disciplinary and other balance.

For more information, please contact:

University of Washington:

- Dr. Amy Snover – NW CASC University Director, University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group (aksnover@uw.edu, 206-221-0222)
- Dr. Meade Krosby – NW CASC University Deputy Director, University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group (mkrosby@uw.edu, 206-579-8023)

Boise State University:

- Dr. Alejandro Flores – NW CASC Lead for BSU (lejoflores@boisestate.edu, 208-426-2903)

University of Montana:

- Dr. Solomon Dobrowski – NW CASC Lead for UM (solomon.dobrowski@umontana.edu, 406-243-5521)

Washington State University:

- Dr. Jan Boll – NW CASC Co-Lead for WSU (j.boll@wsu.edu, 509-335-4767)
- Dr. Julie Padowski – NW CASC Co-Lead for WSU (julie.padowski@wsu.edu, 509-335-8539)

Western Washington University:

- Dr. John Rybczyk – NW CASC Lead for WWU (John.Rybczyk@wwu.edu, 360-223-5806)