

be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors noted below. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

#### **Evaluation Criteria for Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships**

1. Academic record and statement of career goals and objectives of student
2. Quality of project and applicability to program priorities.
3. Recommendations and/or endorsements of student
4. Additional relevant experience related to diversity of education; extra-curricular activities; honors and awards; interpersonal, written, and oral communications skills
5. Financial need of student

#### **Selection Factors for Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships**

1. Balance/Distribution of funds:
  - a. Across academic disciplines
  - b. By types of institutions
  - c. Geographically
2. Availability of funds
3. Program-specific objectives
4. Degree in scientific area and type of degree sought

#### **NOAA Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships Competitions**

This omnibus notice describes funding opportunities for the following NOAA discretionary fellowship, scholarship, internship programs:

##### *National Ocean Service (NOS)*

1. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRF)

**Summary Description:** The Estuarine Reserves Division of NOAA is soliciting applications for graduate fellowship funding within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The Estuarine Reserves Division anticipates that 31 Graduate Research Fellowships will be competitively awarded to qualified graduate students whose research occurs within the boundaries of at least one reserve. The National Estuarine Research Reserve Graduate Research Fellowship program is designed to fund high quality research focused on enhancing coastal zone management while providing students with an opportunity to contribute to the research or monitoring program at a particular reserve site. Students are required to work with the research coordinator or reserve manager to develop a plan to participate in the research or monitoring program for up to 15 hours per week. These management-related research projects will enhance scientific

understanding of the Reserve ecosystem, provide information needed by Reserve management and coastal management decision-makers, and improve public awareness and understanding of estuarine ecosystems and estuarine management issues. Research projects must address one of the following scientific areas of support: non-point source pollution, biodiversity, invasive species, habitat restoration, sustaining resources in estuarine ecosystems, and socioeconomic research applicable to estuarine ecosystem management.

**Funding Availability:** The amount of the fellowship is anticipated to be \$20,000; at least 30% of total project cost match is required by the applicant (i.e. \$8,572 match for \$20,000 in federal funds for a total project cost of \$28,572). Applicants may apply for one to three years of funding.

**Statutory Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1461 (e)(1)(B).

**CFDA:** 11.420 Coastal Zone Management.

**Application Deadline:** All applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2003.

**Address for submitting Proposals:** NOAA's Estuarine Reserves Division; 1305 East-West Highway; SSMC4, Station 10500, N/ORM5; Silver Spring, MD 20912.

**Information Contact:** Erica Seiden, NOAA's Estuarine Reserves Division; 1305 East-West Highway; SSMC4, Station 10500, N/ORM5; Silver Spring, MD 20912, or by phone at 301-713-3155 extension 172, or fax to 301-713-4363, internet at [erica.seiden@noaa.gov](mailto:erica.seiden@noaa.gov) or <http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/grf/welcome.html>.

**Eligibility:** Institutions eligible to receive awards include institutions of higher education, other non-profits, commercial organizations, international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments. Minority students are encouraged to apply to eligible institutions.

**Cost Sharing Requirements:** Requested federal funds must be matched by at least 30 percent of the TOTAL cost of the project, not a portion of only the federal share, (e.g. \$8,572 match for \$20,000 in federal funds for a total project cost of \$28,572).

**Intergovernmental Review:** Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

2. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program; Financial Assistance for Graduate Students

**Summary Description:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) is announcing funding availability for graduate students pursuing masters or doctoral level degrees in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology through the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program and is inviting applications for such scholarships. The intent of this program is to recognize outstanding scholarship and encourage independent graduate level research in the above mentioned fields.

**Funding Availability:** Approximately \$330,000.

**Statutory Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1445c-1; National Marine Sanctuaries Preservation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-283; National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000, Public Law 106-513.

**CFDA:** 11.429 National Marine Sanctuary Program.

**Application Deadline:** Applications must be received between January 28, 2004 and March 31, 2004 no later than 5:00 p.m., EST.

**Address for submitting Proposals:** Applications should be sent to the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program, Attention: Office of the Assistant Administrator, 13th Floor, National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**Information Contact(s):** Send your request for information to the Program Manager at the address shown above in "Addresses", by telephone (301) 713-3074, or by internet to <http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov>.

**Eligibility:** Only United States citizens currently pursuing or accepted to pursue a masters or doctoral level degree in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology, including the curation, preservation, and display of maritime artifacts, are eligible for an award under this scholarship program.

**Cost Sharing Requirements:** None.

**Intergovernmental Review:** Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

#### **Limitation of Liability**

Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for the programs listed in this notice. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige