Coal Oil Point Reserve
Graduate Student Research Awards

2019

One to two research awards of up to $2,000 each are available for graduate students conducting research at the UC Santa Barbara Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR; https://copr.nrs.ucsb.edu/). The award is open to graduate students enrolled in any accredited college or university. Applicants are encouraged to contact the reserve director prior to applying to discuss if the project is suitable for COPR.

COPR is located in Santa Barbara County, California, USA, and is dedicated to support research, university-level education, public service, and land stewardship as part of the University of California Natural Reserve System (for more information see: https://ucnrs.org/). The reserve is located 4 miles west of UC Santa Barbara campus, and includes a variety of habitats including dunes, beach, salt marsh, vernal pools, and coastal scrub. The Nature Center, a 5,000 square foot building adjacent to COPR serves as the Reserve’s headquarters and provides laboratory, office, and classroom space for approved users of the Reserve at minimal cost. Species lists, GIS layers, local climate data, and historical photographs and documents are available to researchers upon request. Several monitoring programs are ongoing at the Reserve including data collection for water quality, invertebrates, and Snowy Plover abundance and nesting success, are ongoing and the data can be shared with Reserve users.

Purpose and illegibility

• The purpose of the COPR Graduate Research Award is to attract researchers to work at the reserve. Researchers, through their work at the reserve, contribute to the understanding of the Reserve’s ecosystem and history.

• The award is restricted to support field research at COPR. Budget requests may include Reserve user fees; ground travel expenses to and from the Reserve; small instruments, equipment and necessary supplies. Non-allowable budget items include air travel, hotel, publication and conference fees, salary, food, large equipment, and campus-based activities. Note that instruments and
equipment purchased with award funds will be considered property of the reserve and should be returned to the reserve staff at the end of the project. The award will be disbursed in the form of a stipend and it is the responsibility of the student to manage the budget as proposed.

- Awardees are expected to produce a final report and share relevant data with the reserve.
- Award recipients must be enrolled at an accredited college or university while conducting research supported by the award. In the case of summer research, enrollment during the preceding quarter or semester is acceptable. Clear proof of intent to enroll in the following quarter or semester term at an accredited college or university is also required.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

- Download the application form from the COPR website [http://copr.nrs.ucsb.edu/](http://copr.nrs.ucsb.edu/) or use the attached form.
- Submit application in PDF format, relevant research permits, and a letter of recommendation from the main advisor by email to Coal Oil Point Reserve Director, Dr. Cristina Sandoval at sandoval@ucsb.edu
- Deadline for submission: March 15, 2019.
- Announcement of awards: May 1, 2019.
- Grant amount: Up to $2,000.

**Completion of project:**
The funds should be used by 1 year after the award is granted. In the event of justifiable circumstance, award funds may be carried forward upon request and with the prior approval of the Reserve director.

**Reports:**
Awardees must submit a final report by September 30, 2020. The report should be structured as a paper submitted for publication (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion). Please also include a short description of the question and results in a form that is understandable to a general audience to be shared in social media. In addition to the final report, awardees must participate (talk or poster) in the COPR student symposium, typically held in November of each year. Applicants will be disqualified from a time extension of the award and future use of COPR if they do not comply with these requirements.

**Evaluation Criteria**
The review panel will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals:

1. **Merit of the proposed research:** Evaluation of research quality will be based on the importance of the problem, originality, clear statement of research questions or hypothesis, methods, sampling design and analysis, any preliminary data supporting the feasibility of the proposed research, and likelihood of success.
2. Contribution to the understanding of Coal Oil Point Reserve’s ecosystems, natural resources, history, use and management. Projects that clearly state how the results will contribute to the understanding and stewardship of the reserve will have a higher priority (http://copr.nrs.ucsb.edu/).
## Applicant Information

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Project Summary

Title of Research Project

Purpose of the Research Project (1000 characters or less)

Sites within Coal Oil Point Reserve where research will be conducted (please be as specific as possible). (Note: parts of the beach and mud flats are restricted during the Snowy Plover breeding season (March 15-Sept 15).
How is the Reserve Important to the Project?

Project Description

**Introduction**: Background, Problem Statement, Question(s) being investigated, Hypotheses, and Predictions (4000 characters or less (including spaces))
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)). How would this project contribute to the understanding and stewardship of the reserve?
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**: necessary supplies and minor equipment; reserve user fees; travel to and from the reserve.

**Non-allowable costs**: air travel, hotel, publication and conference fees, salary, expenses for inventorial equipment and supplies, and campus-based activities. travel to scholarly meetings; publication costs; purchase of classroom books; computers and printers; food; alcohol.

Itemized List of Necessary Supplies and Associated Costs

Itemized List of Fees charged by the Reserve (housing, lab space, etc.)

Other Costs

**Total Request**  ($2000 maximum)

List of all funding sources for this project (include pending grants to you and your advisor) and how this grant will supplement these fun
List all sources of funding for this project, including grants pending or awarded to you or your supervising faculty member, and state how this grant will supplement these other sources.

Budget explanation: requested items whose justifications are not obvious.

ATTACH:

1. Research description.
2. Current curriculum vitae.
3. Relevant permits (IACUC, USFWS, CAFW scientific collecting permits, etc)
4. Letter of recommendation from advisor