

# Science to Action Fellowship

with the USGS National Climate Adaptation Science Center

## Description and Application Process

The **Science to Action Fellowship** was developed to:

- Expose graduate students to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) through the [USGS National Climate Adaptation Science Center](#) (NCASC), whose mission is to provide scientific information, tools, and techniques to help natural and cultural resource managers anticipate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, and ecosystems.
- Support graduate students in developing a policy-relevant product related to the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, their habitats, and users. This product should put science into action, applying scientific research directly to decision making about natural resources. It may be related to the graduate student's own research, and if so, may present a unique opportunity to enhance and share research with a broader community of decision makers.
- Provide students the opportunity to interact with the USGS community and others outside of academia.

**During the fellowship year and beyond, Fellows benefit from collaborations with university and USGS mentors, from interactions with other colleagues and partners of USGS, and from exposure to high priority, real-world challenges in the natural resources policy arena.**

**Eligibility:** This opportunity is open to graduate students at Michigan State University and the Climate Adaptation Science Center Consortium Institutions (all listed below) who are students for **the entire fellowship year** (*special cases otherwise considered*).



DEPARTMENT OF  
FISHERIES AND  
WILDLIFE

Michigan State University  
13 Natural Resources Building  
East Lansing, MI  
48824-1222  
517/355-4478  
FAX: 517/432-1699



MSU is an affirmative-action,  
equal-opportunity employer

### Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) Regions

The CASCs collaborate across boundaries to address shared ecosystems, watersheds, and landscapes



**Financial Award:** Up to two fellows will be selected, annually, to receive a financial award of \$10,000<sup>1</sup> each. The financial award is intended to support the additional efforts undertaken by the Fellow for the NCASC project, *not* as a graduate stipend.

**Mentoring Experience:** Each Fellow will work closely with his/her university mentor (typically, the applicant's graduate program advisor) and a mentor from NCASC (identified by the applicant during the application process).

**Fellowship Duration and Location:** The fellowship experience will last one year (*start date is flexible within funded year, starting April at the earliest*). During this time, the Fellow will be expected to work at USGS headquarters just outside of Washington, D.C. in Reston, Virginia for two months (*typically summer; specific dates are flexible*) but may remain at his/her host institution for the rest of the term.

**To learn more about the Science to Action Fellowship and about previous and current fellows in the program, please visit: [casc.usgs.gov/science-action-fellowship](http://casc.usgs.gov/science-action-fellowship)**

### **Requirements for the USGS National Climate Adaptation Science Center Science to Action Fellowship:**

1. *Update Meetings.* The Fellow, the Fellow's Mentors, and the Review Committee will participate in three virtual meetings spaced throughout the fellowship year. For example, if a fellowship year starts in the spring, one meeting would be held in the spring, as the student is beginning the fellowship and planning for the summer, one in the summer while the student is working at the NCASC, and one in the fall as the fellowship is nearing completion. The Fellow will be responsible for scheduling meetings, developing an agenda, and providing a short (*1 page maximum*) progress report to all attendees for each meeting.
2. *Formal Presentations.* The Fellow must present an [NCASC webinar](#) at the end of the fellowship and is encouraged to present the project results at their home institution and in other formal venues.
3. *Final Report by the Fellow.* The Fellow will be required to write a formal USGS project report within three months of completing the fellowship. The final report should include:
  - a. A description of the fellowship project in detail, description of the Fellow's experience as a Fellow, lessons learned, and advice for future fellows.
4. *Final Report by the Mentors.* The University and NCASC mentor will be required to write a brief description of the mentoring experience and provide advice for future mentors.

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<sup>1</sup> *No portion of this financial award may be used for indirect expenses from a Fellow's host institution. All grant funds are required to be used for direct fellowship expenses (e.g., travel and lodging for two months in Reston, supplies, travel to conferences, etc.).*

## Application Process

### Application Timeline:

<b>Statement of Interest (SOI) Due</b>	February 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, 11:59pm mountain time
<b>Decision on SOI and Notification to Applicant</b>	February 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
<b>Formal Application Due (If SOI is selected)</b>	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 11:59pm mountain time
<b>Decision on Formal Application and Notification to Applicant</b>	April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2019

To apply for this fellowship, the applicant must be a graduate student of the at MSU or one of the CASC Consortium Institutions (*see map above*) for the entire fellowship year (refer to table above). Applicants may be Master's or Doctoral students at any stages of their research program. **Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the Review Committee** (listed below) **via e-mail with any questions or discuss actionable research needs prior to submitting a statement of interest.** Applicants are also encouraged to invite their academic advisors to contact members of the Review Committee.

Science to Action Fellowship Review Committee:

- **Mary Bremigan**, Michigan State University ([bremigan@msu.edu](mailto:bremigan@msu.edu))
- **Shawn Carter**, USGS NCASC ([scarter@usgs.gov](mailto:scarter@usgs.gov))
- **Dana Infante**, Michigan State University ([infanted@msu.edu](mailto:infanted@msu.edu))
- **Abigail Lynch**, USGS NCASC ([ajlynch@usgs.gov](mailto:ajlynch@usgs.gov))
- **Ojetunde Ojewola**, University of Missouri ([oao4m7@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:oao4m7@mail.missouri.edu))
- **Rachel Owen**, University of Missouri ( [rko4kd@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:rko4kd@mail.missouri.edu))
- **Craig Paukert**, USGS Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit ([paukerc@missouri.edu](mailto:paukerc@missouri.edu))
- **Laura Thompson**, USGS NCASC ([lthompson@usgs.gov](mailto:lthompson@usgs.gov))
- **Madeleine Rubenstein**, USGS NCASC ([mrubenstein@usgs.gov](mailto:mrubenstein@usgs.gov))

### *Statement of Interest*

Statements of interest will serve as means for identifying interested applicants and pairing them with a NCASC mentor to co-develop a project proposal. An applicant's statement of interest must include:

1. A **one page cover letter** with the following information:
  - a. The applicant's home institution (must be an applicable institution from the list provided above)
  - b. The applicant's preferred dates for the fellowship year and residency in Reston.
  - c. How the applicant's interests align with [NCASC Science Program Goals & Objectives](#).
  - d. What the applicant wishes to accomplish through a science to action fellowship.
  - e. A statement acknowledging that the applicant's advisor is supportive of the applicant's participation in the fellowship, if selected.

2. A **one page pre-proposal** that includes potential ideas for a fellowship project that addresses a policy-relevant issue regarding the impacts of climate change on fisheries and/or wildlife (*this will serve to help match an applicant with the appropriate NCASC mentor*).
3. A **CV** that includes the following information (*no page limit*):
  - a. Educational history including:
    - i. Overall grade point average and grade point average in the major field of study for each degree earned.
    - ii. Overall grade point average and grade point average in the major field of study for completed semesters in the current program of study.
    - iii. Relevant courses taken for each degree earned.
    - iv. Relevant courses completed or enrolled in as part of the current program of study.
    - v. Relevant presentations, publications, outreach, and other products that demonstrate communicating science to scientific and public audiences.
  - b. Employment or volunteer activities in the field of fisheries and/or wildlife management.
  - c. Employment or volunteer activities and leadership roles in academic or civic communities, or professional societies.

SOIs will be accepted through the NCASC online proposal management system beginning **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**.

If you have any issues with the online management system, please contact Abigail Lynch, USGS NCASC ([ajlynch@usgs.gov](mailto:ajlynch@usgs.gov)).

### ***Formal Application***

Formal applications will be accepted *by invitation only* and will be evaluated based on the requirements listed below. The formal application materials include:

1. A **revised one page cover letter** with the following information:
  - a. Identification of mentors from home institution and within NCASC.
  - b. Identification of a specific project that is of high priority to NCASC and that addresses a policy-relevant issue regarding impacts of climate change on fisheries and/or wildlife resources, as opposed to more theoretical research. This project may be a component of the applicant's graduate research project; however, it must be accomplished within the one year internship experience. Priority projects can be identified in consultation with the home institution and NCASC mentors (also see: [NCASC Science Program Goals and Objectives](#)).
  - c. Identification of time constraints for accomplishing the project, including a description of how the NCASC internship fits with the applicant's class schedule, research requirements, and other responsibilities.
2. (*optional*) A **revised CV** if the previously submitted one is no longer current.
3. A **clear project proposal** written by the applicant with guidance from his/her university and NCASC mentors. The project proposal is required to include the following components.
  - a. Proposal title and project summary (*maximum length: 1 page*).
  - b. General public summary (*maximum length: 200 words*). This summary should describe the relevance of the work to a general audience and must be suitable for posting on NCASC web sites.

- c. Proposal body (*maximum length: 3 pages*)
  - i. **Objectives/Justification:** Explain the objective of the proposed project and describe the significance and priority of the issue to be addressed.
  - ii. **Background:** Describe the scientific issues that underlie the proposed activity, including relevant findings and related ongoing activities.
  - iii. **Methods:** Describe the procedures and methods to be followed in sufficient detail to permit evaluation by the Review Committee.
  - iv. **Expected Results:** Describe expected products to be generated within the timeframe of the project (e.g., written reports, web applications). Identify milestones for producing those products.
  - v. **Management Application:** Describe the intended audience for the project deliverables and what will be done to ensure that these deliverables respond to management information needs.
- d. Literature cited (*no page limit*)
- 4. A separate **letter of recommendation from each of the applicant's mentors** from the home institution and NCASC (two letters in total). In these letters, the mentor should describe his/her commitment to meet with the applicant for feedback and planning over one year.
  - a. The home institution mentor (generally, the applicant's graduate advisor) should acknowledge that the funding provided with this fellowship is *in addition to* other assistantship or fellowship support held by the applicant during the fellowship period. This mentor should indicate what other support will be available to the student during this period. The financial award is intended to support the additional efforts undertaken by the Fellow for the NCASC internship project and cannot *not* serve as a graduate stipend.
  - b. The NCASC mentor should also describe his/her ability to:
    - i. Act as a source of information on the mission and goals of the Department of the Interior, USGS, and NCASC to the home institution or other stakeholders
    - ii. Give feedback on observed performance
    - iii. Provide recommendations on activities that will add to experience and skill development
    - iv. Provide encouragement to the Fellow
    - v. Provide opportunities and resources to the Fellow
    - vi. Provide increased exposure and visibility through attendance at various meetings both within and outside the mentoring agency
    - vii. Assist in planning a career path with the Fellow

Invited proposals will be accepted through the NCASC online proposal management system beginning **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

If you have any issues with the online management system, please contact Abigail Lynch, USGS NCASC ([ajlynch@usgs.gov](mailto:ajlynch@usgs.gov)).