REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DELAWARE WATER RESOURCES CENTER

2013 Graduate Fellowships in Water Resources

The Delaware Water Resources Center (DWRC) announces the availability of two graduate fellowships in water resources. These graduate fellowships will support the ongoing efforts of the state of Delaware to protect and improve water quality and to ensure a safe and adequate water supply for all desired end uses. Funding for graduate fellows is provided directly to eligible project investigators at the University of Delaware or Delaware State University. Application information can be found on the DWRC’s website: http://ag.udel.edu/dwrc/fellowships.html.

Proposal Criteria and Focus Areas:
Proposals must clearly address areas that are of direct relevance to priority water resource issues in Delaware. Innovative, multi-disciplinary research projects, both basic and applied in nature, are preferred. Some areas of particular interest are:

Water Quality:
- Sources, fate, and transport of ground and surface water pollutants
- Climate change effects on water quality
- Nutrient management in agricultural or non-agricultural settings
- Protection and restoration of wetlands and other aquatic ecosystems
- Management and control of stormwater runoff
- Quantifying responses of aquatic ecosystems to pollutant inputs
- Treatment and disposal of on-site sewage and wastewaters
- Remediation of contaminated soils and sediments
- Sources and control of pathogenic bacteria in drinking waters

Water Supply:
- Climate change effects on water supply
- Agricultural irrigation impacts on water supply
- Re-use of treated wastewaters for irrigation
- Identification and protection of ground water aquifer recharge areas
- Biosecurity and protection of water supplies
- Regional management of water supplies
- Water conservation and demand management
- Preventing saltwater intrusion to potable water supplies

Contingent upon the availability of DWRC funding, graduate fellowships will be available on September 1st, 2013 and can be renewed twice, up to a maximum funding of three years, provided satisfactory progress toward project objectives is maintained. Graduate fellows are required to: (i) make an annual presentation on their progress at a meeting organized by the DWRC; (ii) submit an annual report summarizing their research accomplishments to the DWRC; and (iii) participate in outreach activities pertaining to their subject areas when they arise.
Graduate Fellowship Proposal Submission and Evaluation:
Project investigators must submit a proposal describing the research planned for the prospective graduate fellowship that contains the components listed below. The DWRC will provide an annual stipend of $22,500 and $1,000 for travel expenses and supplies for each graduate fellow. Consequently, the maximum annual budget for each proposal is $23,500 (3-year budget is $70,500; if the project investigator anticipates/offers a higher minimum stipend, s/he must make arrangements to provide the additional funding from another source). A 2:1 match is required for all proposals. Indirect costs are not allowed on federal funds but are allowed on the non-federal match. Final decisions on proposals will be made by a review panel established by the DWRC and will be announced no later than March 8th, 2013. Once selected for an award, PIs may then identify/select graduate fellows to begin no earlier than September 1st, 2013 (i.e., funding for the fellowships will not be available until September 1st, 2013 and preference will be given to students who matriculate in the fall of 2013).

Proposals are limited to ten pages of text (excluding CV and budget) and must include:

- Project Justification and Objectives
- Literature Review
- Proposed Methodology
- Project Timeline
- Budget
- Short CV for each project investigator

Submit an electronic copy of the proposal (MS Word) by February 22nd, 2013 to:

Dr. Tom Sims
Director, Delaware Water Resources Center
E-mail: jtsims@udel.edu

The Delaware Water Resources Center is a member of the National Institute of Water Resources (NIWR), a network of research institutes in the 50 states, trust territories, and the District of Columbia. Each water resources research institute conducts basic and applied research to solve water problems unique to its area. The specific programmatic responsibilities of all members of the NIWR are as follows:

1. To plan, conduct, and arrange for research that fosters: (i) the entry of new research scientists into the water resources fields; (ii) the training and education of future water scientists, engineers, and technicians; (iii) the exploration of new ideas that address water problems or expand our understanding of water-related phenomena; and (iv) the dissemination of research results to water managers and the public.

2. To cooperate closely with other colleges and universities in the state that have demonstrated responsibility for research, information dissemination and graduate training, to develop a statewide program designed to resolve state and regional land and water problems.

The Delaware Water Resources Center is administered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) of the University of Delaware. The Director of the DWRC is Dr. Tom Sims, CANR Deputy Dean and Professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, (jtsims@udel.edu).