



## Request for Proposals for Partnered Fellowship Positions with Lake Champlain Sea Grant (2022-2024)

### Timeline

- Proposals due: Monday, January 18, 2022 by 11:59 PM to [seagrant@uvm.edu](mailto:seagrant@uvm.edu)
- Responses to proposals sent to applicants by: February 1, 2022
- Expected project start date (e.g., subaward issued): March 1, 2022
- Expected project duration: 24 months

### Opportunity Summary

For the past three years, Lake Champlain Sea Grant (LCSG) has partnered with organizations in the basin to support two-year fellowships. These unique early career training experiences for recent graduates focus on a variety of priority issue areas that are relevant to the [LCSG Strategic Plan \(2018-2023\)](#) and align with interests and goals of partner organizations.

As LCSG moves into our next two-year funding cycle (2022-2024), we seek to identify partner organizations with which to support two new fellows. Partner organizations will be selected through a competitive process, described below.

For each fellowship position, costs to support the fellow will be shared between LCSG and the partner organization(s). LCSG will support \$25,000 per year with federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for each of two years towards each fellow. Partner organizations are asked to commit at least an equal amount of non-federal funding to support stipends for the fellows. In recognition that not every potential partner organization will have \$25,000 in non-federal funds available to commit annually as match, multiple organizations may apply collaboratively to support a single fellow in partnership with LCSG.

LCSG will accept applications from interested organizations until January 18, 2022.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel that will make recommendations to the LCSG Director about highest priority fellowship partnerships to pursue based upon criteria defined below. A variety of potential areas of focus for fellowships exist. The exact nature of the fellowships offered will depend on the applications of the organizations and specific research interests of the selected fellows. Priority areas of focus for fellowship applications include:

- *Indigenous Knowledge:* We recognize that there is significant progress to be made towards dismantling systemic racism. One area that warrants attention is to understand and increase awareness of the full history of the land and people of the Lake Champlain basin. This fellow might work to develop and share knowledge about the area's first inhabitants, their practices, language, and customs, as well as their stories throughout time in this basin. With at least four state-recognized and two federally recognized tribes in the basin, areas of research abound to understand and share their stories.
- *Water Policy:* Critical issues include crude oil transport, floodplain regulations and insurance policies, green infrastructure ordinances and codes, invasive species transport issues, and property and land use challenges as shorelines change over time. Through the opportunity, fellows may expand their knowledge and ability to develop such policy documents as memos, white papers, or reports. The unique geographic positioning of the Lake Champlain basin within two states and two countries will afford policy fellows the opportunity (if desired) to compare and contrast regulations across state and country borders. The National Sea Grant Law Center can serve as a resource to policy fellows as a connection to the broader Sea Grant Law Network, which includes four programs with lawyers on staff.
- *Science Communications:* This fellow might engage in training and learning to improve their scientific writing, illustration, videography, or data visualization techniques to promote learning and/or behavior change in audiences of specific focus. This fellow might also engage in training and lead assessments to understand and increase their ability to reach a broad diversity of audiences that influence, and are influenced by, coastal resources.
- *Community Engineering or Landscape Design:* The fellow might engage in training to better understand green infrastructure and natural asset management, including such things as appropriate practices for northern and changing climates, and maintenance requirements over time.
- *Coastal Resilience:* Numerous businesses and communities in the basin will be impacted by changing conditions over time—from those with shoreline or riparian properties susceptible to erosive forces or flooding, to those that face altered timing or type of recreational activity due to climatic changes. This fellow might engage in training and pursue research that will help them improve their ability to work with coastal businesses to reduce their susceptibility and to increase their resilience to extreme events and environmental change over time.

Once fellowship partners are selected, scopes of work will be developed with each partner to define these relationships and expected deliverables, and a subaward will be issued (if funds are being directed to a partner organization). Then LCSG and the participating partner organization will facilitate a competitive process to select a high caliber candidate from a pool of applicants. Each fellow will be employed either through UVM or by the partner organization, determined in cooperation with the partner organizations.

Lake Champlain Sea Grant will provide fellows with ongoing professional development opportunities, tapping into the rich collection of resources available at the University of Vermont, SUNY-Plattsburgh and the National Sea Grant Network, along with those of local, state, regional, and federal agencies and organizations. Following the fellowship period, LCSG will evaluate the experience of each fellow and modify the process and support provided over time as needed.

## Eligibility

Organizations, agencies, and institutions of higher education that operate within the Lake Champlain basin of New York and/or Vermont are eligible to respond to this opportunity. LCSG welcomes diverse perspectives and aims to work diligently to extend knowledge and resources to diverse audiences to help achieve our vision and mission. As such, LCSG will identify and distribute this announcement to, and encourage, organizations representing diverse ways of knowing, perspectives, and audiences to apply.

## Application Guidelines

To apply, interested organizations should submit a 3-page (maximum, using 1-inch margins and 12-point font) description of their proposed fellowship position and supporting information as follows to [seagrant@uvm.edu](mailto:seagrant@uvm.edu) by 11:59 PM ET on January 18, 2022.

The fellowship position proposal should define which LCSG priority area<sup>1</sup> (noted above) the fellowship will address, how the proposed fellowship aligns with the LCSG Strategic Plan, and goals, interests, and activities of the partner organization. The mission of the partner organization(s) and a summary description of current relevant activities that relate to the proposed fellowship position should be included. In addition, a description of the proposed activities, and learning, skills, and career-related outcomes anticipated for the proposed fellow should be described. Activities that aid the proposed fellow in understanding and/or reaching a diverse audience are encouraged. Finally, each proposal should include the planned annual contribution (for each of two years) from the partner organization(s) and confirm that funds to be used (at least equal to \$50,000 over two years) are non-federal in nature and can be used as match on LCSG's federal funds.

## Review Criteria

All applications received will be reviewed in accordance with our [competition policy](#). Application proposals received will be reviewed and ranked based on: alignment of the proposed fellowship position with the LCSG 2018-23 Strategic Plan; alignment of the proposed fellowship position with goals and interests of the applicant; potential for successful implementation of

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<sup>1</sup> Alternatively, an organization may propose a fellowship that addresses an aspect of the LCSG Strategic Plan that is not identified as a priority above. In such instances, particular care should be taken to describe how the fellowship position will align with the LCSG Strategic Plan *and* goals and interests of the partner organization.

proposed activities; potential for the fellow to achieve anticipated learning, skills or career outcomes as a result of the proposed activities; potential for the fellow to reach and/or better understand a diverse audience; geographic distribution of fellows across the watershed; and ability of the applicant(s) to support non-federal match funding at least equal to LCSG federal contributions.

**Important note for applicants**

Funding of all proposals is contingent upon FY2022 and FY2023 federal budget allocations from NOAA to LCSG. Modification in the number of and funding for individual proposals may be needed if funding allocations change.