



A Cooperative Program of the
University of Washington, University of Idaho, Oregon State University,
and the U.S. Geological Survey

Funding Opportunity for Graduate Students
USGS Northwest Climate Science Center Graduate Research Assistant
University of Washington

Overview of the Opportunity

The USGS Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC) invites proposals from University of Washington faculty for funding graduate research assistantships (NW CSC Fellows) at the MS or PhD level in fields relating to climate change and its impacts.

The NW CSC combines academic expertise with federal resources to advance climate science development and delivery for managers and policy makers in the Northwest region (<https://www.nwclimatescience.org/>). The NW CSC was established in 2010 as a collaboration between the University of Washington, University of Idaho, Oregon State University, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Geological Survey, and has adopted a [Strategic Plan](#) to address current and future impacts of climate change. To advance this agenda, the NW CSC releases periodic [competitive research RFPs](#) to support scientists throughout the Northwest region. In addition, each of the three university partners provides funding for NW CSC Graduate Fellows in support of MS and PhD level graduate students in fields of study relating to climate change.

NW CSC Graduate Fellows become part of a cohort of students from the three partner universities. They work and develop skills together through a variety of networks and activities sponsored by the NW CSC, including the annual [NW CSC Climate Science Boot Camp](#), a week-long educational session in August of each year, and the [PNW Climate Science Conference](#), a two-day academic conference in September or October of each year.

Criteria for Funding of NW CSC Research Fellowships

This is a call for applications for NW CSC Graduate Research Fellows starting Spring or Summer quarter, 2015. We invite applications submitted jointly by faculty (students' major advisors) and graduate students for graduate student research and outreach on issues that inform management decisions and public policy development related to climate change. Projects must have a conscious relationship with natural or cultural resource managers and/or other stakeholders preparing to deal with the challenges and opportunities of climate change. Preference will be given to students who are conducting research and pursuing education in areas of study that address the [NW CSC priority areas of research](#). The NW CSC seeks research in all areas of this science plan.

Start date, duration, and funding level of individual awards are negotiable based on the project timeline, needs of the graduate student, and funding from other sources. The appointment and salary will conform to a standard graduate research assistantship in the students' home department. In addition to the salary, travel funds will be available for the student to participate in the annual NW CSC Climate Boot Camp and the PNW Climate Science Conference. Expenses for other conference travel and research supplied are negotiable.

Application and Selection Process:

Applications are due no later than close of business on May 8, in PDF format by email to Prof. Eric Salathé, UW PI, NW CSC (salathe@uw.edu). Applications must include the following documents:

- a) Letter of support from the faculty advisor (1 page). The faculty member's letter must indicate a justification for the research and their endorsement of the student's proposed research. Please indicate at what percentage time and for how many and which months graduate support is desired. The faculty letter is not simply a letter of recommendation.
- b) Letter of application from the graduate student (1-2 pages *maximum*). The student's application letter should include their reason for desiring a NW CSC Fellowship; the importance of the research topic in the NW region; its relevance to the NW CSC Science Plan; and thoughts on how to collaborate with other Fellows at the University of Washington and partner universities.
- c) Concise summary of the research being conducted by the student (2 to 3 pages) including the following as appropriate to the project:
 - 1) Narrative; introduction, justification, purpose, background, goals/objectives.
 - 2) Research design, methods, and plans for analysis.
 - 3) Timeline, tasks to be completed.
 - 4) Intended deliverables and products, plans for interaction with intended users (managers and other stakeholders preparing to deal with the challenges and opportunities of climate change), and application of outcomes throughout the life of the project, and beyond.
- d) CV for the graduate student to be supported.

To be eligible, the graduate student must be currently enrolled or accepted to begin enrollment by Summer or Fall Quarter 2015, advised by the faculty member preparing the proposal, and, if enrolled, in good standing with the Graduate Program at the University of Washington. The NW CSC funding can be used to initiate a new research project, to provide an opportunity to fund a portion of an ongoing research project, to enable the student to extend ongoing research to support management decisions, or to bring to completion an ongoing graduate student research effort. Progress on the student's proposed research is required to be documented with an annual report, due by August 15 of each year, and a final report within one month after the end of their NW CSC Fellowship funding.

Application letters will be reviewed based on the merit of the proposed research and outreach/delivery; its relevance to NW CSC science goals and management needs; the merit of the research methodology; the quality of writing and thinking presented by the graduate student; and the suitability of the time frame to complete the work.

For more information, please contact:

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