

Texas Water Resources Institute

USGS Graduate Student Research Program

Fiscal Year 2025 Request for Proposals

Application Deadline: January 26, 2024, by 11:59 PM CST

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Federal Award: \$7,500
Nonfederal Match Required: 1:1
Total Awards Planned: 3

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The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) is happy to announce its call for proposals for students conducting water resources research. TWRI has funds available for graduate students at any Texas university through the [U.S. Geological Survey Graduate Research Program](#). Proposals are due January 26, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.

TWRI anticipates funding 3 graduate research projects of up to \$7,500 each in the area of water resources and hydrology that have the potential to help Texas solve future water problems. We expect the funds will become available no sooner than September 1, 2024, and the period of performance will end August 31, 2025.

Eligibility

- Applications from graduate students doing water resources-related research in Texas are encouraged. This program can support either ongoing or new studies.
- Proposals should be developed by the graduate student applying for the project in collaboration with his or her faculty advisor. Students with junior faculty thesis and dissertation advisors are highly encouraged to apply for these grants.
- Students must be enrolled at least half-time.

TWRI Research Priorities

Proposed research can deal with a wide range of water resources topics. However, priority will be given to research based on [USGS's Circular 1488](#) addressing the science, technology, policy or socioeconomics of:

- Water scarcity and availability
- Water-related hazards and climate variability
- Water quality
- Water policy, planning and socioeconomics
- Ecosystem and drainage basin functions
- Water technology and innovation
- Workforce development and water literacy

Timeline

Those selected for the USGS grant will begin no earlier than September 1, 2024. The maximum project timeline for each grant is one year, ending August 31, 2025, but projects may be completed with funds being spent down as needed earlier than the end date.

Budget

The USGS Program allows for a categorical budget, including tuition (see template below).

Other budgetary notes:

- A maximum of **\$7,500** may be requested.
- A 1:1 non-federal match is required for USGS. (Example: If the full \$7,500 is requested, you need \$7,500 in non-federal match; if \$1,500 is requested, you need \$1,500 in match.) In addition, a signed commitment letter from your graduate committee chair is required indicating the amount of matching funds being committed to this project.
- The 1:1 non-federal match can include: salaries and fringe benefits of faculty advisors and graduate students funded by non-federal dollars; in-kind services; equipment or lab use; supplies furnished by student's department; and graduate teaching or research assistantships not being used as match on any other projects.

- If within Texas A&M, if you are budgeting for tuition, a proportionate amount of the student's salary and fringe must also be budgeted per TAMUS requirements.
- If faculty advisor or committee chair is part of TAMU or TEES, 1% of their salary **MUST** be budgeted in the federal budget per TAMU and TEES requirements.
- Indirect costs (IDC) may not be charged as part of the requested funds, but IDC and unrecovered IDC can be used toward to 1:1 non-federal match requirement. IDC used for match must be applied to modified total direct costs, thus IDC **cannot** be applied to tuition and equipment costs.
- If the student is unable to complete their project as proposed and approved or if all funds are not used within the one-year timeline, the funds will be returned to TWRI.

Reporting Requirements

Students will be required to submit a progress/final report at the end of their funding cycle. The progress/final report may include the student's thesis or dissertation or a summary of it, a manuscript suitable for publication as a TWRI technical report, or a journal article. USGS also has a specific annual reporting template that will need to be completed when requested. In addition, those receiving funds must work with the TWRI communications team to publicize their results in the form of a story and photo(s). Acknowledgement must be given to TWRI's program in any resulting publications for efforts partially funded by these funds. In addition, faculty advisors for students selected for award are responsible for alerting TWRI of any new contact information after the award/graduation to be contacted annually for updates for five years following the funding for our required reporting back to USGS.

Evaluation and Ranking Criteria

Are TWRI Research Priorities being addressed in the proposed research?
 Will the proposed work help better manage Texas water resources and/or solve future water problems?
 Will the proposed work advance existing science, or is it new and innovative?
 Does the work proposed seem doable? Can the research be accomplished?
 Applications that do not adhere to the criteria outlined in this RFP may not be considered for funding.

Application & Deadline

Graduate students interested in applying should complete the Proposal Application Form using the criteria below. The completed [Proposal Application Form](#) (Microsoft Word), [budget](#) (Excel) and [budget justification](#) (Word) must be e-mailed to Danielle Kalisek at Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu. Proposals must be received electronically by **11:59 p.m. CST, January 26, 2024**, to be considered.

For technical questions, contact Lucas Gregory at LFGregory@ag.tamu.edu.