



SECOORA

S O U T H E A S T
COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING
REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

Vembu Subramanian Ocean Scholars Award



In remembrance of Vembu Subramanian – our friend, colleague and the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) Data Manager - SECOORA established an award for the next generation of ocean experts to meet others in their field and present their work at meetings or conferences.

Applications Due by October 28th, 2024, 5 PM ET

\$1,500 Individual Award Value

Vembu Subramanian Ocean Scholars Award

In remembrance of Vembu Subramanian—our friend, colleague, and the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) Data Manager—SECOORA established an award for the next generation of ocean experts to network with others in their field and present their work at meetings or conferences within the United States.

Opportunity

SECOORA is continuing Vembu's legacy by sponsoring the annual [Ocean Scholars Award](#). SECOORA will support 2-3 recipients to participate in an in-person regional or national meeting or conference. The maximum individual award value is \$1,500 to cover travel and conference/meeting costs within the United States. We anticipate supporting at least one applicant in each funding category (undergraduate and other, see pages 2-3). **Proposals are due Monday, October 28, 5:00 PM ET.**

Eligibility

Applicants that reside within the SECOORA region (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida) and who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- **Category 1: Undergraduate Students** - Students currently enrolled at a university, college or community college located within the SECOORA region.
- **Category 2: Graduate Students or Early Career Professionals** - Graduate students who attend an academic institution OR early career professionals who have graduated within the past five years and are pursuing a career in the marine field in the SECOORA region.

SECOORA is committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication, and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives, and ways of thinking. We encourage applicants from all backgrounds to apply for this competitive opportunity.

Request for Applications/Proposals

Proposals must follow the required format and be relevant to a SECOORA [focus area](#). The conference/meeting must be held within one year of the award start date.

Maximum page length is four pages (does not include appendices). Text should be 12-point font, one-inch margins, and must include the following components:

- Title Page
 - Proposal title
 - Applicant's name and complete contact information (email, phone number, mailing address)
 - Indication of Category 1 or Category 2 status
 - Advisor name and contact information (i.e., professor supervising work)
 - Proposal summary (one paragraph)
- Description of the purpose of attending the meeting or conference
 - Category 1 (undergraduate students)
 - Description of career goals and research interests (relevant to the conference you wish to attend)
 - Identification of the SECOORA focus area that is relevant to your goals/interests
 - Category 2 (graduate students and early career professionals): Description of research to be presented at the meeting or conference
 - Statement of the issue being addressed in your research
 - Project description including research goals, objectives, and location of research sites. At least a portion of the research must be conducted within the SECOORA region.
 - Identification of SECOORA [focus area](#) addressed and how the project supports a user/stakeholder need.
- Description of the conference you wish to attend
 - Identify the in-person conference you plan to attend, including a web address for the conference and the conference dates.
 - Category 1 (undergraduate students): Describe why attending this conference would be impactful to your career path and/or research interests.
 - Category 2 (graduate students and early career professionals): Describe the reasoning for presenting your work at the selected conference, and indicate whether your presentation will be an oral presentation or a poster session.
 - NOTE: The conference must be held within the United States. We will not award funding for international travel.
- Provide a budget and budget justification
 - Funds may be used for any purpose related to conference attendance and travel. The budget should include items such as conference registration fees, transportation costs (e.g., airfare, mileage), lodging rate, per diem, etc.

- Please note, university overhead charges are *not* permitted, nor is any support for the faculty sponsor. Matching funds and in-kind support are not required.

The following are proposal appendices that do NOT count toward the four-page limit:

- Literature cited
- Applicants must include a one-page curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
- For undergraduate and graduate students, a signed letter of support from their major professor, transcript, and a completed [SECOORA endorsement form](#) by the College/University sponsored programs office is required.
- For the early career applicants, a signed letter of support from their mentor or supervisor is required.

Submission

Please submit the entire application package electronically in PDF format through egrants.secoora.org. The **submission deadline is 5:00 PM ET, October 28, 2024**. You must complete the registration process in order to upload a proposal to egrants.secoora.org. This is a two-part verification system (phone and email confirmations are required). Once you have registered, please select the RFP to which you are applying, complete the required fields, and upload your proposal as a PDF.

Application/Proposal Review Process and Terms

1. Proposal package is due by **5:00 PM ET, October 28, 2024** via egrants.secoora.org.
2. SECOORA will convene a 3-5 person review panel that includes SECOORA staff and members. The review panel will rank proposals based on their relevance to SECOORA's mission and stakeholder needs and adherence to the instructions provided in this request for proposals. Review criteria are below:
 - a. Relevance and need for conference attendance - 30%
 - b. Clearly written description of career/research goals (Category 1) or clearly written project description (Category 2) - 25%
 - c. Alignment with SECOORA Focus Area(s) - 20%
 - d. Budget reasonableness - 15%
 - e. Proposal follows required format and all appendices are included - 10%
3. Conference attendance must be completed no later than one year after receiving the award.
4. **Within 30 days of conference attendance**, the successful scholar will submit a 300-word summary of their conference experience, along with a photo of themselves attending or presenting (if applicable) at the meeting/conference.

SECOORA will use the photo in a SECOORA news story which will be posted online and distributed via our newsletter mailing list.

Award Funding

The successful applicants will be notified no later than **November 22, 2024**. For graduate and undergraduate student recipients, funds will be distributed by SECOORA to the applicant's academic institution. The awardee's major professor must agree to serve as principal investigator on the project and manage the funds on behalf of the student. Funding for early career professionals will be distributed to the applicant as a subcontract from SECOORA.

This is an open and competitive process. SECOORA reserves the right to reject any and all applications/proposals received as a result of this process. SECOORA reserves the right to request that applicants make modifications to proposals at any time before an award is made.

Timeline

Friday, September 13th: Award opens

Monday, October 28th: All proposals are due via egrants.secoora.org by 5:00 PM ET.

Tuesday, October 29th - Tuesday, November 19th: Proposal review period.

Applicants may be contacted and asked to discuss their project.

Friday, November 22nd: Winners are notified.

30 days after conference attendance: Deliverables are emailed to communications@secoora.org, with your PI included in the email. Deliverables include a summary of your conference experience (~300 words), including a picture of you presenting and/or participating in conference activities.

Questions Regarding Application Solicitation

For any questions related to this fellowship, please contact communications@secoora.org. Good-faith efforts will be made to answer as many questions as possible, but an answer is not guaranteed for every question.

About SECOORA

The SECOORA region encompasses Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. This opportunity enables recipients to become familiar with SECOORA's mission and objectives, US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), and related marine scientific and technological programs.

[SECOORA](#) is one of the 11 coastal ocean observing regional associations partnered with the US IOOS. SECOORA sustains and advances coastal and ocean observing, modeling, and data management subsystems for the US southeast coastal and ocean waters. SECOORA supports: maintenance and operation of *in-situ* real-time ocean moorings and High Frequency (HF) radar observational networks from North Carolina to West Florida; a multi-scale, multi-resolution modeling subsystem that delivers model data and products for coastal resource and emergency response managers and other users; and, has established a robust data management and communications infrastructure. SECOORA is [IOOS certified](#) and implements the US IOOS recommended standards that promote interoperability, discovery, efficient data aggregation, access, sharing, visualization, and use of coastal ocean data (physical, chemical, biological, and geological). Information products are made available to stakeholders and decision makers via the SECOORA [data portal](#). SECOORA's [website](#) provides a central hub for access to our communication, education, and other content materials, as well as our data, models, and data portal.