



**SECOORA**  
DELIVERING DATA FOR DECISIONS

# VEMBU SUBRAMANIAN OCEAN SCHOLARS AWARD

**PROPOSALS DUE APRIL 21, 2026 AT 5:00 PM ET**



Established in memory of Vembu Subramanian, this award supports the next generation of ocean professionals through mentorship, networking, and meaningful engagement at our Annual Meeting.

## SEMBU 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 to support the next generation of ocean professionals through mentorship, networking, and meaningful engagement at the SECOORA Annual Meeting.

### Opportunity

SECOORA is continuing Vembu's legacy by sponsoring the annual [Ocean Scholars Award](#). Two recipients will be selected to attend the [SECOORA Annual Meeting](#), May 20–21, 2026, in Atlantic Beach, NC.

Award recipients will be paired with an experienced mentor during the Annual Meeting to support networking, provide guidance on career pathways, and facilitate engagement with the SECOORA community.

Registration costs will be paid by SECOORA. Eligible travel expenses will be reimbursed directly to awardees following completion of the meeting.

We anticipate supporting at least one applicant in each funding category (undergraduate and graduate/early career).

Applications are due **Tuesday, April 21 at 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 5 years and are pursuing a career in the marine field in the SECOORA region.

SECOORA is committed to building 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

Applications must follow the required format, use 12-point font and one-inch margins, and include the following materials:

- Title Page
  - 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)
- Statement (500 words or less)
  - Provide a short statement that describes:
    - Your interest or past involvement in marine, coastal, or ocean-related work
    - Why you would like to attend the SECOORA Annual Meeting
    - How participation in the meeting and mentorship opportunity will support your long-term career goals
- Resume or CV
  - Two page maximum
- Signed endorsement form from an advisor/mentor (all applicants)
  - [Click here to download](#)

## Submission

Please submit the entire application package electronically in PDF format through [egrants.secoora.org](https://egrants.secoora.org). The **submission deadline is 5:00 PM ET, April 21, 2026**. You must complete the registration process in order to upload a proposal to [egrants.secoora.org](https://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, April 21, 2026** via [egrants.secoora.org](https://egrants.secoora.org).
2. SECOORA will convene a review panel that includes SECOORA staff and members. The review panel will rank proposals based on the review criteria below:
  - a. Demonstrated interest in marine, coastal, or ocean-related work – 40%
  - b. Clear articulation of professional goals and anticipated benefit from participation in the SECOORA Annual Meeting and mentorship opportunity – 40%
  - c. Completeness and adherence to application requirements – 20%

3. Within 30 days following the Annual Meeting, award recipients must submit:
  - a. A brief summary (~300 words) describing their meeting experience and mentorship engagement
  - b. A photo of their participation in meeting or networking activities
  - c. A completed travel reimbursement formSECOORA may use submitted materials in communications products, including news stories, website features, and newsletters.

## Award Funding

The successful applicants will be notified no later than **May 4, 2026**.

This is an open and competitive process. SECOORA reserves the right to reject any 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

**Tuesday, March 31:** Award opens

**Tuesday, April 21:** All proposals are due via [egrants.secoora.org](http://egrants.secoora.org) by 5:00 PM ET.

**Tuesday, April 21 – May 1:** Proposal review period. Applicants may be contacted and asked to discuss their project.

**Monday, May 4:** Winners are notified.

**30 days after conference attendance:** Deliverables submitted to [communications@secoora.org](mailto:communications@secoora.org), including:

- Summary (~300 words) of meeting experience and mentorship engagement
- Photo documenting participation in meeting or networking activities
- Completed travel reimbursement form

## Questions Regarding Application Solicitation

For any questions related to this fellowship, please contact [communications@secoora.org](mailto:communications@secoora.org). An answer is not guaranteed for every question.