

Michigan Sea Grant Request for Proposals Questions and Answers for Full Proposals and Graduate Research Fellowships

I. Core Research and Integrated Assessment

Note, a number of questions were addressed during the pre-proposal phased. Please refer to the [Pre-Proposal RFP Q&A \(updated Feb. 28, 2017\)](#) (PDF)

1. Should preliminary data be included in the full proposal?

MISG is not the repository of research data. See the NOAA Data Sharing Directive Policy on our [Reporting Guidelines](#) webpage (http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2012/05/MISeaGrantDataManagementForm_042617.pdf) that includes a form that should be used to describe where project data would be held and how it could be accessed. However, preliminary data could be summarized in the proposal to provide support for methods or research approach, similar to a pilot project.

2. Are previous MISG funded proposals available for review?

Yes, although MISG has only recently been aware of this requirement so we would first need to ask the funded proposal PI to remove any proprietary information and then the requested proposal can be shared.

3. I'm writing with a question regarding the full proposal for integrated assessment projects. Does MI Sea Grant have requirements for who can be included as a co-Investigator? Our lead PI is faculty at the University of Michigan and the proposed co-PI is a Program Manager at the same University. Is a Program Manager (with a PhD) eligible to be a co-PI?

Yes, a Program Manager with a PhD can be a Co-PI but a PI would need to be Faculty or Research Faculty.

4. Can one include researchers from federal agencies as team members? I know they cannot provide match but can they be in the team?

Yes.

- 5. For Qualifications (#11), the description asks for the CVs of the PI and co-investigators. Does this refer to all team members, or only personnel listed as co-PIs? Also, does the same apply for Ongoing Support (#12)?**

You only need to provide CVs for PIs and Co-PIs, not team members and you do not need to provide CVs for the Ongoing Support (Part #12) portion of the application.

II. Graduate Student Fellowships

- 1. I currently work with different state agencies and wanted to know if the letter of recommendation from the agency mentor should (or has to) come from an individual who is based within Michigan (like the Michigan DNR or another agency staff member based in Michigan)?**

The RFP states: Research fellows will work with an agency sponsor and faculty member at an accredited institution in Michigan to conduct a research project that supports existing Great Lakes agency research. Agencies include federal, state, and tribal agencies, NGOs, and local governments that conduct research on Great Lakes coastal issues. This could include natural or social science research.

While the faculty advisor must be based at a Michigan institution, the agency sponsor does not have to be based in Michigan (e.g., EPA, NASA or other federal sponsor). MISG did not specifically state that the state agency needs to be from MI nor that the research be done in MI, although providing a letter of support from a MI-based agency would be preferred. Linking Great Lakes research to issues being faced in Michigan would strengthen the proposal.

- 2. Is it alright to include an additional letter of support from someone the project is serving, but who is not my advisor or the agency mentor?**

Yes, you can include a letter of support from a partner not your advisory or agency mentor.

- 3. Several people have advised me to contact Heather Triezenburg <vanden64@msu.edu> as a potential mentor, but I realize she works for Sea Grant and I thought that might be outside the norm to propose working with someone at the funding source.**

MISG typically works with research project PIs and Fellows to identify MISG extension personnel that might assist with their project. We would encourage you to work with Heather, however, she cannot serve as an agency mentor for your fellowship application, as that would present a conflict of interest for MISG during the selection process.

- 4. I am interested in collaborating with a research scientist at NOAA GLERL, however he is leaving this fall to teach at a public university. He is potentially interested in collaborating through his move. Would this still be considered an "acceptable" agency sponsor as he wouldn't be at a federal agency throughout the duration of the grant?**

Since the agency sponsor would be leaving NOAA-GLERL prior to the start of this fellowship, they would not qualify as an agency sponsor. They could certainly continue to be involved with your project as a co-advisor with your main professor (academic advisor).

- 5. I am interested in collaborating with someone at the Ohio Sea Grant program, however we have concerns if this collaboration would be acceptable for the MI Sea Grant application. Are cross-Sea Grant program collaborations acceptable?**

The agency collaborator should be based in Michigan. The exception to that would be a Federal agency that does not have office in Michigan (e.g. USEPA). It would be fine to include the Ohio Sea Grant researcher on your team but you would need to also have an agency collaborator within the state of Michigan.

Updated 5/22/17