2016-2017 International Joint Commission-Sea Grant Fellowship

Michigan Sea Grant (MISG) and the International Joint Commission (IJC) are teaming up to create the IJC-MISG Fellowship. One fellow will be placed at the IJC Great Lakes Regional Office, located in Windsor, Ontario, for one year, focusing on international water policy and management issues.

The International Joint Commission-Sea Grant Fellowship will begin June 1, 2016 and will end May 31, 2017. For the 2016 fellowship, applicants must have completed or are completing a master’s, doctoral, or professional degree between January 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016 to be eligible. Applicants must demonstrate interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and the international policy decisions that affect those resources.

A. Application and Submission Information

Required Elements
Failure to follow these requirements will result in applications being rejected without review. Application package must include:

(1) Two signed letters of recommendation, including one from the student’s major professor; if no major professor exists, a faculty person academically knowing the applicant best may be substituted.

(2) A personal education and career goal statement emphasizing the applicant’s abilities and what the applicant expects to gain from the fellowship experience in the way of career development (1000 words or less).

(3) Personal and academic curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages).

(4) Clear, scanned copy of all official undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.

(5) Listing of classes and/or plans for spring 2016, summer 2016 and fall 2016 (not to exceed one page).

B. Submission Dates and Times

Applicants must submit materials by 5 p.m. (Eastern) February 27, 2016 to the IJC-Michigan Sea Grant Fellowship website. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected without further consideration. The materials must be submitted through the website: no e-mailed or faxed applications will be accepted.

C. Funding

The fellowship will provide $56,500 in stipend, travel and benefits. Michigan Sea Grant receives and administers the overall cooperative agreement of $56,500 on behalf of the fellow.

Funding details:
The fellow will receive $45,000 as a stipend to cover living expenses. Of the total cooperative agreement amount, MSG provides $8,000 to cover mandatory health insurance and moving expenses for the fellow. Any remaining funds of the $8,000 shall be used for the fellow during the fellowship year, first to satisfy academic degree-related activities, and second for fellowship-related activities. Finally, up to $3,500 from the total $56,500 can be used to cover the travel related to fellowship during the year.

During the fellowship, the International Joint Commission may provide supplemental funds for work-related travel by the Fellow. The Fellow’s supervisor will be Dr. Jennifer Boehme, Environmental Scientist.

Indirect costs are not allowable from the IJC funds either for the fellowships or for any costs associated with the fellowship.

D. Application Review Information

Evaluation Criteria – The evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

(1) Recommendations and/or endorsements of student (15% total):
   a. Content of the letter from the applicant’s major professor, and the second letter of recommendation.

(2) Academic record and statement of career goals and objectives of students (45% total):
   a. Quality of the applicant’s personal education and career goal statement (30%)
   b. Strength of academic performance (15%).

(3) Additional relevant experience (40% total) in marine or aquatic-related fields and GIS skills, as well as:
   a. Diversity of education
   b. Extra-curricular activities
   c. Honors and awards
   d. Interpersonal, written and oral communications skills.

NOTE: At the IJC review, evaluation criteria are identical, except that in criteria (1), the letter of endorsement from the Michigan Sea Grant program director will also be considered.

E. Review and Selection Process

Michigan Sea Grant will form a review panel, including an IJC member, to interview and individually discuss each application based on the evaluation criteria listed in the previous section. Following this discussion, an individual score will be provided by each panel member. Once all applications have been discussed and scored, an average score will be computed for each application. The top scoring applicants will then be submitted to the International Joint Commission with a signed letter of endorsement from the Michigan Sea Grant program director. Michigan Sea Grant may select and forward to the International Joint Commission no more than three (3) applications based on the evaluation criteria. MISG will send the selected applications to International Joint Commission no later than the deadline of 5:00 p.m. EDT on March 31, 2016.

F. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The International Joint Commission competitive selection process and subsequent notification to Michigan Sea Grant will be completed by April 24, 2016. Awards are anticipated to start on June
1, 2016 and run for one year (12 months) and cannot be renewed or deferred. Pre-award spending will be approved 150 days prior to the start date of the award.

G. Award Notification
The International Joint Commission will notify Michigan Sea Grant of its selection via e-mail. The email will contain a written summary of the review panel comments. Michigan Sea Grant will, in turn, formally applicant and forward the summary comments provided by the International Joint Commission. The applications that are not ultimately selected for funding will be destroyed one year after the submission date.

H. Reporting
Annual performance report (summary of accomplishments and activities) is to be submitted to the environmental scientist and secretariat at the International Joint Commission, and the Michigan Sea Grant program manager/fiscal officer.

I. Fellowship Contacts
Phone: (734) 643-1437 or e-mail: msgfellowship@umich.edu.

About the International Joint Commission
In 1909, Canada and the United States signed the Boundary Waters Treaty, which created the IJC, because national leaders recognized that each country is affected by the other's actions in lake and river systems along the border. With three commissioners from each country, the IJC finds science-based, independent solutions to transboundary conflicts, balancing competing interests in pursuit of the common good. Please visit our website for more information at www.ijc.org.

About Michigan Sea Grant
Through research, education and outreach, Michigan Sea Grant is dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes and coastal resources. Michigan Sea Grant, a cooperative program of the University of Michigan (UM) and Michigan State University (MSU), is part of the National Sea Grant College Program. MSG is part of a national network of more than 33 university-based Sea Grant programs in coastal states across the country, administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Please visit our website for more information at www.miseagrant.umich.edu.