7/6/2015

Re: MARB & CMSS Graduate assistantships funded through TRDF

MARB & CMSS faculty,

We present here a policy for allocation and use of MARB and CMSS Ph.D. assistantships. Previously these assistantships had a teaching requirement, but will now be available as competitive “research assistantships”. Requirements for holding a “research assistantship” include: 1) full-time enrollment in the semester(s) covered by the award, 2) a minimum of 20 hours per week in the lab or on dissertation writing (as verified by the major advisor), and 3) good academic standing.

Priority for the assistantships will be given to those students who have completed their proposal defense, passed their comprehensive exams and satisfied the residency requirement of their program. Additional criteria that will be considered include a student’s service to the program/university, previous advisor support for the student’s stipend and research, student progress, and duration of the funding request. Students are eligible for up to one full academic year of support and are eligible to reapply for one additional year of support after the term of their research assistantship expires.

A competitive application procedure will be implemented. This will be overseen by a Scholarship & Awards committee consisting of 1 tenured CMSS faculty, 1 tenured MARB faculty, and program coordinators. To be considered for the assistantships, the following constitutes a complete application: 1) form containing basic information on the student as well as a brief essay describing student need (attached), 2) student C.V., and 3) supporting letter from the faculty supervisor detailing student progress to date as well as the student’s need for funding. Submission details can be found on the attached application form.

Applications will be accepted in Fall 2015, for a Spring 2016 start date. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Wetz, Ph.D. 
Marine Biology Coordinator

Paul Montagna, Ph.D. 
Coastal and Marine System Science Coordinator