



Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

August 29, 2019

Re: MARB Ph.D. research assistantships

MARB faculty,

We present here a policy for allocation and use of MARB Ph.D. 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, previous assistantship funding, student progress, and duration of the funding request. Students are eligible for up to one full academic year of support but may reapply after the term of their research assistantship expires.

After consultation with the Dean, to encourage our graduate students to continue to apply for prestigious external fellowships (e.g. NSF GRFP, Fulbright), students may request to use MARB Ph.D. assistantships for one summer of support in lieu of fall/spring. This does not apply to students who are funded on RAs through their mentor, or to students receiving small research awards (e.g. SeaGrant Grants-In-Aid). This applies only to competitive external fellowships awarded directly to the student that provide salary & research support. If you wish to pursue this support, a description of the external fellowship awarded and support utilized, as well as an explicit request that the funds be awarded in summer rather than fall/spring must be included with the application. Please contact the MARB program coordinator in advance of the application deadline to determine eligibility.

The application procedure is competitive and is 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) MARB Ph.D. Research Assistantship Application (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 are currently being accepted for a Spring 2020 start date. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Walther, Ph.D.
Marine Biology Coordinator