

## TWRI Graduate Student Research Programs 2024 - 2025 USGS 104b Scholarship Application

Please complete all parts of this Proposal Application Form to be considered for the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) Graduate Student Research Programs.

- Proposals must be received via e-mail by **11:59 p.m. CST, February 9, 2024**, to be considered. The completed **Proposal Application Form** (Microsoft Word), **budget** (Excel) and **budget justification** (Microsoft Word) must be e-mailed to Danielle Kalisek at [Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu).
- Proposals should be at least 11-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
- The Basic Information and Project Description sections (items 1 – 19) are **limited to 5 total pages** and all items are required.
- The Required Information section (items 20 - 25) is **not** included in the 5-page limit.
- **Applications beyond the 5-page limit will not be considered in the review process.**
- *Italicized text (instructions)* may be deleted but ensure that each item is titled and numbered.
- *This section of instructions above may also be deleted.*

### Basic Information

1. **Short Title** *of proposal.*

2. **Student Information.**

|                        |  |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Student Name           |  |                        |  |
| Student E-mail         |  |                        |  |
| Student Phone Number   |  |                        |  |
| Student Classification |  |                        |  |
| University             |  |                        |  |
| Department             |  |                        |  |
| Degree Year Started    |  | Anticipated Graduation |  |

3. **Faculty Information.**

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Advisor/Committee Chair Name |  |
| E-mail                       |  |
| Phone Number                 |  |
| Title                        |  |
| University                   |  |
| Department                   |  |

4. **Full Project Title** *of proposal (long title).*

5. **Project Type.**

*Choose **one** from this list: Research, Education, or Other.*

*If Other, please explain:*

6. **Congressional District** *of your university:*

7. **WRRI Science Priorities:**

*Choose **one** from the list that most closely aligns with your project: Water Scarcity and Availability,*

Water Hazards and Climate Variability, Water Quality, Water Policy, Planning, and Socioeconomics, Watershed and Ecosystem Function, Water Technology and Innovation, or Workforce Development and Water Literacy.

8. **USGS Cross-Discipline Landscapes.** Choose *one* from this list: Arctic, California Bay-Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Columbia River, Everglades, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast, Klamath, Puget Sound, Salton Sea, Upper Mississippi River, or None of the Above.
9. **USGS Cross-Discipline Science Topics.** Choose *one* from this list: Climate, Energy, HABs, Indian Water Rights, Natural Hazards, Oceans/Coastal/Great Lakes, STEM, Water Challenges, or Other.
10. **Keywords.** Enter keywords of your choice that describe your proposed work. Up to 100 characters including spaces.
11. **Training potential.** Estimate the number of graduate students and undergraduate students, by degree level, who are expected to receive training in the project.

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Number of Undergraduate Students |  |
| Number of Graduate Students      |  |

12. **Focus Categories.** Choose a *maximum of three* categories, starting with the most preferred, from the list included in Attachment A.
13. **Abstract.** Please provide a brief (< 300 words) description of the problem, methods, and objectives.
14. **Plain-language summary.** Provide a brief (< 150 word) description of the study that could be understandable by the public.

## Project Description

*In this section, emphasize how your research will address water resources-related concerns (particularly how, if possible, it will benefit Texas).*

15. **Statement of critical regional or state water problems.** Describe how your research will address RFP research priorities and explain the need for the project, who wants it and why.
16. **Statement of expected results or benefits.** Specify the type of information to be gained and how it will be used.
17. **Nature, scope, and objectives of the research, including a timeline of activities.** This is the major emphasis of your proposal.
18. **Methods, procedures, and facilities.** Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
19. **Intended career path** you anticipate pursuing.

## Other Required Information

*(These items are **not** included in the 5-page limit.)*

20. **Related research.** *Show the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project to completed or ongoing work on the same topic. Citations should be in APA format.*

21. **Data Management Plan.**

- If you will be collecting and/or storing data, this is a required section.
- If no data will be collected, no detailed plan is needed. Just list “No data are expected to be produced from this project.”
- This section may include:
  - a. The types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced during the project;
  - b. The standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies);
  - c. Policies for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;
  - d. Provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives; and
  - e. Plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of free public access to them.

22. **Academic qualifications of the student.**

*This can include a degree plan, an unofficial transcript, or a list of courses taken and grades.*

23. **Investigators Qualifications**

*Include short resume(s) for both the student and advisor(s). Resumes should not exceed two (2) pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.*

24. **Budget** *(Submit as an Excel spreadsheet attachment via e-mail)*

- The **Excel Budget Breakdown spreadsheet is required.** Please only fill in the information in the yellow-shaded cells.
- If you are within TAMU, AgriLife, TEES or considered “on-campus,” proposals DO NOT need to route through SRS. These are considered pre-proposals and, if selected to go forward, would be routed under the main proposal through SRS and your department.
- USGS funds can go toward tuition as well as salaries, fringe, supplies, travel, and other costs.
- Total request cannot exceed \$7,500 and 100% non-federal match/cost share is required.
- **Advisors/Committee Chairs from TAMU or TEES must include at least 1% of their salary as part of the Federal costs.**
- Indirect costs (IDC) are not allowed on the federal request, but unrecovered IDC can be used toward match along with the IDC on the direct matching funds.
- The business administrator in your advisor/committee chair’s department may be able to provide information for the salaries, fringe, and match.

25. **Budget Justification** *(Use included template and submit as a Word document attachment via e-mail)*

- Fill in the justification for each section, including both federal and non-federal (match/cost share) funding for each, as applicable.
- If nothing is budgeted in a particular category, type “n/a.”
- **Costs should be itemized and not listed as a lump sum.**
  - **Examples for budget justification:**
    - Salary (Total: \$3,050)**
      - Graduate Assistant: 1 month (8.3%) at \$27,000 annually = \$2,250
      - TAMU or TEES PI Professor: 0.12 month (1%) at \$80,000 annually: \$800
    - Fringe (Total \$1,086.31)**
      - Fringe benefits for students are calculated at 10.7% salary plus \$564 per month. \$804.75.
      - Fringe benefits for faculty and staff are calculated at 19.7% salary plus \$1,033 per month for health insurance: \$281.56.
    - Field Supplies (\$581.08 Total)**
      - 1L Sample Bottles: 10 at \$13.20 each = \$131.20
      - 1 case of 500 20mL borosilicate vials = \$309.90
      - 1 case of 200 0.45-micron filters = \$139.98
    - Services/Consultants (\$6,500 Total)**
      - Ion Chromatography Analyses at UTSA: 150 samples at \$15 each = \$2,250
      - DNA Sequencing: 34 analyses at \$125 each = \$4,250
    - Travel (\$58.50 Total)**
      - 30 mi round trip to field site at \$0.65 per mi = \$19.50 per trip. 3 trips = \$58.50
  - Calculate the total cost for each section and ensure it matches your Excel spreadsheet.
  - The business administrator in your advisor/committee chair’s department may be able to help provide budget justification information for the non-federal required match.
  - **Advisors/Committee Chairs from TAMU or TEES must include at least 1% of their salary as part of the Federal costs.**