

CALL FOR 2024 IAAAM MEDWAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) recognizes a continuing need for the funding of research projects focused on aquatic animal medicine. IAAAM also recognizes the value and importance for students to gain solid scientific research training. To help fill these needs and to further promote involvement of students in aquatic animal medicine, the IAAAM has established the Medway Scholarship Program designed to support research experiences for students interested in pursuing careers in aquatic animal medicine.

The program is primarily intended for undergraduate, veterinary, and graduate students without stipends or other sources of funding. The purpose of the scholarship is to partially support the student for research experiences beyond that which they might experience with normal undergraduate classwork or a graduate/veterinary curriculum.

Objectives

- Provide students with exposure to sound research practices in the field of aquatic animal medicine beyond what is normally included as part of the undergraduate or graduate/veterinary curriculum.
- Encourage students to pursue post-graduate careers incorporating research in aquatic animal medicine.
- Encourage student participation in the IAAAM.

Program Description:

The IAAAM Medway Scholarship Program provides scholarships of up to \$3,000 each to students who have been accepted to participate in a research project organized and funded by government, academic, private entities, a combination there of, or by private consulting veterinarians in the aquatic medicine field. The sponsoring entity or individual must provide the student with at least a 10 to 12-week working exposure to research focused on aquatic animal medicine and must involve direct interaction with a current IAAAM member in good standing. Funding for the research activity must be provided by the sponsoring entity or individual. Scholarship awards are intended to support the student's personal expenses while participating in the funded research. Scholarship recipients will be required to present their research findings at a future IAAAM conference and will still be eligible for other IAAAM student awards.

Factors that are considered in selecting the scholarship recipient are briefly described below. They are not listed in any order of importance but are included to assist the applicant in preparing the application form and letter.

- Commitment of the applicant to a career in aquatic animal medicine as reflected in the applicant's letter of intent and curriculum vitae (CV).
- Applicant's grade point average/class rank.
- Quality, scientific merit, and duration of intended research. Applicants are encouraged to select research projects with established funding sources, clearly defined aims, and project timelines that will enable the student to complete the research during the allotted time. Applicants are encouraged to pursue research activities at institutions with proven or established aquatic animal research programs. Project summaries detailing the planned research, aims, importance, methods, and funding sources will be judged for each applicant. Projects for which the budgeted work has already been completed are not eligible for consideration.
- Two (2) current letters of recommendation, one of which must come from a member in good standing of IAAAM.
- Financial needs of the student in addition to other available funding such as that provided by the institution providing the research opportunity.

- Previous recipients of the award are encouraged to apply; however, priority will be given to those who have not previously received the scholarship.
- **Application Submission Deadline: April 15th, 2024.** Please submit completed applications to:
 Dr. Ashley K. McGrew, IAAAM Board Member for Education
 Colorado State University, Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology
 200 West Lake Street
 1644 Campus Delivery
 Fort Collins, CO 80523-1644
Email: ashley.mcgrew@colostate.edu
- Submissions can be sent either by mail, or electronically, though **electronic receipt is preferred**. Electronic submissions should be in **pdf format**. All materials must be received by **April 15th, 2024**, including letters of recommendation. ***Please note: If application components are mailed, it is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm receipt of materials prior to the application deadline.***
- Winners will be notified in May 2024.

Application requirements:

- Application form (download from IAAAM website: www.iaaam.org)
- Letter of intent detailing applicant's career goals and goals for the research activity.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must come from a member in good standing of IAAAM
- Student's *Curriculum Vitae* (should include any other research experience with citations)
- Official school transcripts for currently enrolled institution only
- Letter of agreement from the principal investigator at the sponsoring institution, identifying the location and duration of the research project and its expected funding source(s)
- Student budget of estimated expenses (e.g., transportation, rent, meals) separate from direct research related expenses
- Project Summary completed by student applicant: (3-page limit; single spaced; ¼-inch margins; 11-point Times, Times New Roman or Arial font).

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disqualification.

Project Summary should include:

- Brief project abstract/overview
- Project aims/hypotheses
- Justification and literature review
- Materials and methods
- Significance to the field of aquatic animal medicine/health
- Research budget – including direct and indirect funding sources
- Research timetable
- Student's role in the project
- Mentor's qualifications

If live animals (including client/private-owned animals) are used in any way in the project, the mentoring researcher must provide assurance that the planned research project has or will obtain full Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval.