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UF/IFAS
Soil and Water Sciences Department

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Biogeochemistry Graduate Fellows Program

Sponsored by
Wetland Biogeochemistry Laboratory
Soil and Water Sciences Department

The Wetland Biogeochemistry Laboratory (WBL) was established in 1982 within the Soil and Water Sciences Department (SWSD) of UF/IFAS. The WBL has established an endowment to support and promote research and education in wetlands and aquatic ecosystem with a focus on ecosystem productivity, climate change, water quality, and sea level rise. Some of the income derived from this endowment will support current and future activities of SWSD graduate students working in the thrust area of "Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems". These funds can be used by students pursuing basic and applied research in wetlands and aquatic systems for travel to visit nationally recognized labs to learn new techniques, participate in scientific meetings related to their research, and to present research at national and international meetings.

The primary selection criteria includes a) the student must be enrolled in M.S. (thesis) or Ph.D. program in the Soil and Water Sciences Department, b) evidence of proposed or current research at any scale (molecular to landscapelevel) that has significant emphasis on linkages to wetlands and aquatic systems, and c) graduate student commitment to contribute to WBL initiatives during the Fellow Award duration as designated below.

WBL Graduate Fellow Terms

- Fellow Awards begin on January of each year
- Each Fellow will receive $1,000 to support their research program
- A maximum of <u>two</u> new Fellows will be awarded annually
- Nominations are required by October 17th or by a revised date each year.

WBL Graduate Fellows will:

- Provide research and/or education program and product content to be included on the WBL website
- Present their research at the SWS Annual Research Forum
- Display a research poster on the departmental poster board
- Acknowledge WBL funding source in publications and presentations
- Take a leadership role in promoting the WBL and wetlands and aquatic systems research thrust area across campus and externally

Eligibility

- SWSD Ph.D. and M.S. (thesis) students advised by SWS tenured and non-tenure track faculty and SWS affiliate faculty.

- Student must be enrolled full time as a graduate student for the full calendar year during the year fellowship is awarded.
- Superior academic performance interpreted as a graduate GPA of 3.75 or higher
- Graduate students are eligible for re-nomination following a one-year hiatus after holding the WBL Fellowship.

WBL Graduate Fellow Application

Students are encouraged to apply for these Fellowships. In order to apply, a student must submit 1) a letter outlining their qualifications for the Fellowship, 2) research proposal (2 pages single space) describing motivation in addressing scientific questions, 3) completed graduate student evaluation form, and 4) a letter (limited to 200 words or less) of endorsement from the major advisor indicating the importance of research related to the wetlands and aquatic systems thrust areas. Additional support material may be submitted if the student wishes to do so and feels that it will strengthen his/her application.

WBL Graduate Fellow Selection Process

The SWS committee appointed by the department chair or his/her designee will review the nominations and make recommendations to award up to two WBL Graduate Fellows per year. The SWSD may use WBL alumni to serve on the selection committee to review WBL Fellow nomination.