



CLARK NEXSEN

Coastal Resilience Post-Graduate Fellowship

Application Deadline: March 16, 2018

Anticipated Fellowship Start Date: July 10, 2018

Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) and Clark Nexsen (CN) are now soliciting applications for the Coastal Resilience Post-Graduate Fellowship. This 12-month paid fellowship is intended to provide educational and professional development opportunities for post-graduates interested in becoming leaders in innovative, pre-disaster, resiliency design strategies. The selected fellow will receive on-the-job training related to resilient design or coastal flooding adaptation strategies focused on Hampton Roads. This announcement and additional information can be found at: <https://vaseagrant.org/>

FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Coastal Resilience Post-Graduate Fellow will be partnered with a CN professional mentor relevant to their area of study (e.g., engineering, architecture, GIS, etc.) and will be actively involved in ongoing projects while also having their own dedicated project that spurs collaboration and integration across multiple departments within CN. Throughout the fellowship, the fellow will be afforded the opportunity to partner with local institutions and participate in resilience events with VASG, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, Old Dominion University, Wetlands Watch, Hampton Roads Regional Planning Commission, and other members of the Hampton Roads resilience and adaptation community. VASG and CN anticipate supporting one post-graduate fellow starting during the summer of 2018. The selected fellow will have access to a suite of VASG-sponsored professional development activities and will also have opportunities to engage and network with a range of graduate and post-graduate fellows and interns supported by VASG and CN.

SPONSORS

Clark Nexsen is a national architecture and engineering firm focused on creating innovative design solutions for U.S. and global clients. They are passionate about their work and are prominently ranked on numerous industry lists. Building Design + Construction ranks CN as a Top 20 architecture and engineering firm and they have been continually named to the Architect 50 list of top U.S. firms. Their culture supports the pursuit of excellence to engage and inspire the best professionals. CN is headquartered in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with 450 employees in office locations in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas.

Virginia Sea Grant advances the resilience and sustainability of Virginia's coastal and marine ecosystems and the communities that depend upon them. As a broker of scientific information, VASG works with resource managers, businesses, communities, and other stakeholders to provide and apply the best science and information available. We do this through funding, and by conducting research, education, outreach, and communication services. VASG is a federal-state partnership, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with matching funds from our seven-university partners. Hosted at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary, VASG's other partner institutions include: University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and George Mason, James Madison, Old Dominion, and Virginia Commonwealth Universities.

In Collaboration With

ELIGIBILITY

Graduate students close to completing their degree who have research experience or training addressing coastal flooding adaptation strategies in areas including, but not limited to: engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, resilient design, planning, policy, law, science, and other relevant fields at a Virginia university or college are eligible to apply. Applicants should demonstrate a strong interest and some experience working on coastal resiliency topics (e.g., course work, internships, independent study, etc.). Fellows *must* complete all degree requirements prior to starting the fellowship. The sponsors strongly encourage women, members of underrepresented minority groups, persons with disabilities, and veterans to apply.

AWARD INFORMATION

VASG and CN anticipate supporting one post-graduate fellow for the Coastal Resilience Post-Graduate Fellowship. The length of the fellowship assignment is twelve-months and is nonrenewable. The start date may be flexible to accommodate the fellowship recipient and the CN mentor; however, we anticipate a July 10, 2018 start. The Coastal Resilience Post-Graduate Fellow is considered *true fellow* by VASG and William & Mary, who is placed at a host office (CN's Virginia Beach office). Each fellow will receive \$55,000 in stipend support for the twelve-month assignment, and \$5,000 for critical expenses (e.g., insurance, if needed) and professional development activities (e.g., travel, registration, or other expenses to participate in conferences, workshops, VASG-sponsored professional development training, etc.).

FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS

In addition to their work responsibilities to CN, the selected fellow will be required to support VASG communication efforts to publicize their fellowship activities, participate in periodic meetings including fellow professional development activities and the annual VASG Graduate Symposium, and submit a final report at the conclusion of the fellowship. Regular contact between VASG and the fellow will occur throughout the year, and the fellow is encouraged to update VASG with future educational and professional activities and plans.

HOST-FELLOW RELATIONSHIP

The Coastal Resilience Post-Graduate Fellowship is an innovative professional training experience and educational opportunity that will benefit both fellow and CN. As an integral foundation of the program, the fellows and host must be aware and sensitive to each other's mutual responsibilities, and the goals of the fellowship. Fellows are expected to honor the working protocols of CN and contribute to useful and relevant products that meet their mission. The fellow's mentor and CN are expected to provide opportunities for involvement in substantive projects that contribute to the fellow's professional development, education, and developmental goals, as well as provide adequate and appropriate mentorship for the fellow.

Specifically, CN has agreed to: 1) Deliver an orientation that introduces their mission and goals, priorities, staff, and activities; 2) Provide opportunities for substantive involvement in, and contribution to their activities, including a focused project and work tasks for the duration of the fellowship; 3) Supply a professional mentor and coach who will develop an Individualized Professional Development plan with the fellow, and regularly engage with him/her during the 12 months; and 4) Provide a work space, supplies, travel expenses, etc. necessary to accomplish the fellow's tasks.

HOW TO APPLY

Intent to Apply

All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact VASG's Fellowship and Research Program Coordinator, Sam Lake (contact information below), to indicate their interest in the fellowship, discuss the application process, and to schedule their virtual interview.

Application Requirements

For all application elements outlined below, use Calibri or Times New Roman font. Font size can be no smaller than 11 point, and margins must be at least one inch on standard 8.5x11 inch paper. VASG recommends submitting all application elements as PDF documents.

- I. **Personal and Career Goal Statement** (1,000 words or less)—The statement should emphasize the applicant's ambitions, professional growth interests and objectives, and how their experiences and competencies contribute toward long-term goals. The statement should highlight what the applicant expects to gain from the fellowship, and how it relates to their career aspirations.
- II. **Vision for Coastal Resiliency** (500 words or less)—A statement briefly outlining the applicant's vision of resiliency in coastal Virginia (e.g., what is resilience in a coastal community context, what makes communities resilient, what are the challenges and opportunities for making communities more resilient, etc.) and the role the applicant envisions their professional career will contribute to making that future a reality.
- III. **Resume or CV** (two-page maximum)—Must include the applicant's name and contact information (including address, phone number, and email address). Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate the diversity of their education and work experience, honors and awards, extra-curricular activities, volunteer history, and interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills.
- IV. **Undergraduate and Graduate Transcripts**—Clear, scanned copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts. Unofficial copies are acceptable.
- V. **Recommendation Letters**—Three letters of recommendation, including one from the student's major professor. If no major professor exists, a letter from the faculty member who is most familiar with the applicant's academic experience may be substituted. VASG encourages applicants to request at least one letter from a non-academic source, i.e., someone who can speak to your strengths and potential from a different perspective than your academic references. Referees are strongly encouraged to speak to a candidate's professional skills and potential, as well as previous performance and accomplishments. To maintain confidentiality, letters of recommendation should be submitted directly from the referees to VASG through eSeaGrant and must be submitted by the application deadline to be considered. Please address letters to Dr. Troy Hartley, Director Virginia Sea Grant. Late submissions may lead to the rejection of incomplete applications.

Application Submission

Applications must be submitted online via eSeaGrant (<http://vaseagrant.ecsion.com>) by **5:00 pm EST on Friday, March 16, 2018**. If you plan to apply, we strongly recommend notifying VASG and registering for eSeaGrant at least two weeks in advance of the deadline. Notifications can be sent as a short, simple email expressing your interest in the fellowship. Please reference "Coastal Resilience Fellowship" in the subject line. Instructions on how to register and start an application on eSeaGrant are included below. Additional instructions can be found on the VASG website (<https://vaseagrant.org/>) and on eSeaGrant.

Applicants can register for eSeaGrant by visiting the website, selecting the "Register" tab, and completing the required information. If you do not receive a "welcome" email with login credentials shortly after registering, please contact Sam Lake (see contact information below).

To start a fellowship application, or edit an existing application, click on "Current Tasks" on the banner head, and select "Add Fellowship Application" under "2018 Coastal Resilience Fellowship." Once you have added the fellowship application to your Current Tasks, you must progress down through the sequence of application sections ("Start Here" through "Submission Preview") listed on the left side of the window to submit the application. Guidance related to these sections follows, in sequence. Please note - some sections may require additional pop-up pages, please allow your browser to display pop-up windows and enable JavaScript.



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Adherence to the format requirements and page limits is mandatory, and ensures fairness across all applications. Applications not meeting these requirements may be rejected without review.

To preserve confidentiality, letters of recommendations must be uploaded directly from the referees to VASG through eSeaGrant. Applicants must identify and submit requests to their referees through eSeaGrant, by entering their names and email addresses on the corresponding section.

All elements, including recommendation letters, must be submitted by the deadline. VASG will not accept late applications under any circumstances (e.g., internet delays), so please allow ample time to submit your application in advance of the deadline. Confirmation of the application and recommendation letters will be automatically generated and sent by eSeaGrant. If you do not receive confirmation shortly after submitting your application, please contact Sam Lake (see contact information below).

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

VASG will first review all applications to assure that they are complete and adhere to all applications guidelines. Applicants will be invited to participate in a virtual interview with the fellowship selection committee, which will be composed of representatives from VASG and CN, and possibly other relevant stakeholder advisors. The committee will select a finalist, based upon the submitted application materials and virtual interviews, who will be invited to CN's Virginia Beach office to give a presentation on their work and vision of coastal resiliency in Hampton Roads, and to interview in person. The selection criteria will be based on the applicant's academic and professional performance and potential, professional and career goals, relevant and qualifying experience, communication and professional skills, and supporting recommendations and endorsements.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION

Fellowship announcement released	January 2018
Applications due to VASG by 5:00 p.m. EST	March 16, 2018
Virtual interviews	late-March 2018
Notification of finalist(s)	mid-April 2018
Selected finalist(s) interview	mid- to late-April 2018
Fellow notified	late-April 2018
Fellowship begins	July 10, 2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VASG and CN have secured funding for the 2018 fellowship year, a determination of future fellowship announcements will be dependent upon review and assessment by the sponsors. It is the sponsors' hope that the Coastal Resilience Fellowship will become a mainstay of post-graduate fellowship opportunities in Virginia, although future award notifications will be contingent upon the availability and timeliness of federal appropriations.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Sam Lake, VASG Fellowship and Research Program Coordinator to indicate their interest in the fellowship, and to discuss the application process.

Samuel J. Lake, Fellowship & Research Program Coordinator
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