



American Elasmobranch Society 2016 Award Summary

The AES Grant Fund Committee offers a number of awards for students in various stages of their studies and research. After the addition of the **Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award** in 2010, the boundaries between the three major student research awards may at first seem unclear. Students interested in applying to any of these awards should read and understand the text below.

Of the three major student researcher awards, the **Donald R. Nelson Behavior Research Award** is the most straightforward in scope: the award funds work on the behavior and sensory biology of chondrichthyan fishes. The **Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award** and **Student Research Award**, on the other hand, are broader and effectively the same in scope, funding any research centered on chondrichthyan fishes. Starting in 2013, applications for the **Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award** and **Student Research Award** are evaluated together and the awards given (in no particular order) to the top two applicants.

A student may conceivably apply to two or three of these awards in the same year, however the applications must be for *wholly different projects*. For example, a student could apply to the **Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award** and **Student Research Award** to fund, respectively, Chapters 1 and 2 of their dissertation, where each chapter focuses on a different aspect of a species' biology. However, these two awards cannot be used to separately fund, say, travel and supplies for just one study (e.g. Chapter 1 of the dissertation); such "redundant applications" will be considered for only one of the two awards, the choice of which will be at the discretion of the Grant Fund Committee.

Students may apply for all three of the major student research awards at the same time; however *each award requires a separate application package*. The Grant Fund committee reserves the right to return redundant applications and/or those that are not suited for a particular award; the applicant will be contacted in these cases.

Students can receive each award only once per degree. As such, students are expected to apply with their highest-quality and best-organized work. If, after reading the award documentation, you are unclear whether your project is suited to a certain fund, please email the Grant Fund Committee Chair.



American Elasmobranch Society Student Research Awards 2016

Each year the AES Grant Committee will award two separate \$1000 awards —the **Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award** and the **Student Research Award**— **for research on chondrichthyan fishes**. In addition, the **Donald R. Nelson** Grant Committee will award a \$1000 award **for research on the behavior and sensory biology of chondrichthyan fishes**. The award winners will be announced and the awards presented at the 2013 meeting. Students who are currently enrolled in a degree program (undergraduate or graduate), are **members in good standing** of AES (i.e., paid dues by Dec 31, 2015) and are in at least their **second year of membership** are eligible to apply. Students are eligible to receive each award **once per degree**. Selection of the recipients will be based on the merit of the proposed or ongoing research. The ranking criteria form used by the Committee Members is available for students to help refine their proposals based on the judging criteria. Emphasis will also be placed on how crucial the additional funding would be to the progress (or completion) of the research project.

~Before applying, please read the attached 'AES Award Summary' to understand the differences among the criteria for the separate AES award funds~

Award winners are expected to present the results of their research at an annual meeting of the AES.

Award winners are required to:

- Submit a report of expenditures to the AES Treasurer within one year
- Acknowledge the AES for financial support in resulting presentations and publications

To apply, email the Grant Fund Committee Chair with your completed application, compiled as a single pdf document, including:

- 1) A completed application form
- 2) An itemized budget showing how funds will be spent
- 3) A **one-page** *curriculum vitae* including
 - a. All degree information
 - b. Recognition, funding and awards
 - c. Related work history – TAships, research-related jobs, consulting, etc.
 - d. Up to five of your most significant and/or relevant publications
 - e. Synergistic activities – committee involvement, editorial positions, outreach, etc.
- 4) A **1,000 word (max)** description of the research project, including hypothesis, objectives, methodology, rationale, significance of research and financial need. Literature cited does not count in the word limit. See the '*Criteria Form*' for details about how proposals will be ranked.
- 5) A letter of support from your major advisor explaining your research abilities, the significance of the research, and the extent to which the award would facilitate the work's completion.

Submit applications to:

Toby Daly-Engel
email: tdalyengel@uwf.edu

**Completed applications must be received
by 5pm EST April 1st, 2016.**

Late applications will not be considered.

If for some reason you cannot submit an electronic version of your application, please contact the Grant Committee Chair well in advance of the deadline for other options!



2016 AES Student Award Application Form

— Completed form must accompany application package —
Must be emailed/posted by 5pm EST April 1, 2016.

TO WHICH ARE YOU APPLYING?			
<input type="checkbox"/> AES Student Research Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Donald R. Nelson Research Award	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member in good standing (dues paid by Jan. 1 of this year)	<input type="checkbox"/> I am in at least my 2 nd year of membership		

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ACADEMIC PREPARATION:

<u>DEGREE</u>	<u>UNIVERSITY</u>	<u>DEGREE & YEAR EARNED</u>
<i>Undergraduate degree</i>		
<i>Previous graduate degree</i>		
<i>Current degree</i>		

ADVISOR: _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: _____

TITLE OF STUDY: _____

STUDENTS CANNOT APPLY TO MULTIPLE AWARDS WITH THE SAME PROJECT - IF YOU'RE APPLYING TO MORE THAN ONE AWARD, EXPLAIN IN THE SPACE BELOW HOW YOUR REQUESTS DIFFER FOR EACH APPLICATION: _____

I hereby acknowledge that I am a member of the American Elasmobranch Society in good standing in at least my second year of membership, and I agree to use these grant monies for research purposes and present the results of this study at an annual meeting of the AES. Furthermore, I will acknowledge the AES for funding in presentations and publication(s) resulting from this work.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE



AES Student Award Ranking Criteria

Rating:	Excellent 5	Good 4	Competent 3	Needs Work 2	Not Acceptable 1	Total Points
Statement of Problem - hypotheses						
Clear, well-explained rationale for study						
Statement of question(s) or hypothesis(es)						
Clear objectives						
Project objectives are clearly stated						
Clear methodology						
Use of appropriate methods						
Use of appropriate analyses						
Text clarity and presentation						
Grammar, flow, and spelling						
Innovation and originality						
Originality of the research and/or methodology						
Importance of project						
The importance of the work is clearly expressed						
Detailed budget and justification						
Detailed budget						
Clear justification of costs						
Total Points Allowed						50
Your Total Points:						

Comments: