



American Elasmobranch Society 2025 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 for any of these awards should review 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 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.

Applications will be considered for all possible awards for which they are eligible; however, a given project can only win one award. A student may conceivably win multiple awards in the same year, but this would require multiple applications for *wholly different projects*. For example, a student could win the **Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award** and **Student Research Award** to fund, respectively, Chapters 1 and 2 of their thesis or dissertation project, where each chapter focuses on a different aspect of a species' biology.

For students submitting multiple projects, each project requires a separate application package. The Grant Fund committee reserves the right to return redundant applications; 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 2025

Each year the AES Grant Fund Committee will award two separate \$1,000 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 2025 meeting. Students who are currently enrolled in a degree program (undergraduate or graduate) and are **members in good standing** of AES (i.e., paid dues by December 31, 2024) 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 form used by the Grant Fund Committee members is provided below 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 towards the student's degree.

~Before applying, please read the above '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 of the award date.
- 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 (below)
- 2) An itemized budget showing how funds will be spent
- 3) A **1-2 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:
Jeremy Vaudo
Chair, AES Grant Fund Committee
Email: jvaudo@nova.edu

Completed applications must be received by 5pm EST May 1, 2025. 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!



2025 AES Student Award Application Form

**This completed form must accompany application package.
Must be emailed/posted by 5pm EST May 1, 2025.**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

ACADEMIC PREPARATION:

| Degree | University | Degree and Year Earned |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Undergraduate Degree</i> | | |
| <i>Previous Graduate Degree</i> | | |
| <i>Current Degree</i> | | |

ADVISOR:

EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE:

TITLE OF STUDY:

If you are submitting more than one application, please explain how your requests differ for each application:

I hereby acknowledge that I am a member of the American Elasmobranch Society in good standing (dues paid by December 31, 2024) 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: | 5 Excellent | 4 Good | 3 Competent | 2 Needs Work | 1 Not Acceptable | 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 | | | | | | |
| Originality and Innovation | | | | | | |
| 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: