

American Museum of Natural History

Richard Gilder Graduate School

Lerner-Gray Fund for Marine Research Grant Program for Students, Postdoctoral Trainees, and Early Career Research Scientists:

LERNER-GRAY FUND FOR MARINE RESEARCH GRANT PURPOSE

The Lerner-Gray Fund for Marine Research provide financial assistance to highly qualified persons starting careers in marine zoology. Support is limited to projects dealing with systematics, evolution, ecology and field-oriented behavioral studies of marine animals. Awards are not made to support research in botany and biochemistry. For more information please review our website [here](#).

LERNER-GRAY FUND FOR MARINE RESEARCH GRANT: SUPPORT

Applicants submitting research proposals on birds, even marine species, must apply instead to the [Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund Program](#).

The Lerner-Gray Fund for Marine Research grant is intended to assist **early career scientists** -- advanced pre- doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers -- although there are no formal educational restrictions to apply, in fields covered by AMNH. Grants are available from AMNH funds, each having specific missions.

The *award covers support for field work including:*

- Transportation
- Subsistence in the field or at a research station
- Expendable supplies

The grant may be obtained for travel and living expenses to cover investigations at any location including trips to New York City to study the collections in AMNH or for work at any of the Museum's field stations.

In general, *the award will NOT be made to cover:*

- Lab work or supplies (although travel to complete lab work, and/or lab costs in combination with travel or field work, might be considered)
- Salary
- The purchase of permanent research equipment (such as computers, software, and microscopes)
- Overhead
- Conference or meeting costs
- Expenses or salary for a field assistant

LERNER-GRAY FUND FOR MARINE RESEARCH GRANT: FUNDING AND DURATION

The grants are meant to act as seed money for new researchers, and generally amount to between \$1000 and \$3,500; **\$3,500 is the maximum allowable request**. The grant may be spent between July 1 of the application year and June 30 of the following year, and must be fully expended during that period. At the end of the project we require a 1-2 page report.

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Other Research Grants: Collection Study Grants, Frank M. Chapman Memorial Grants, and Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grants

- [Collection Study Grants](#)
- [Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund Program](#)
- [Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grants](#)

DEADLINE TO APPLY, 2026-2027 AWARD CYCLE

Lerner-Gray Fund for Marine Research Grant: March 15, 2026, 11:59pm, Eastern Standard Time

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IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS PAGE AND THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

INSTRUCTIONS

There are 8 parts to the application process; all are required and must be completed by **11:59pm Eastern Time on March 15, 2026.**

1. Personal Background
2. Academic History
3. Research Grants Application
4. Research Grants Documents to Upload [*project description, CV, optional supplemental material*]
5. Budget Form
6. One (1) Recommendation Letter
7. Signature
8. Review

For assistance with the application process, you may contact fellowships-rggs@amnh.org.

Research Grants Application

Application

1. Select the science division(s) related to your project.
2. Include a Project Title
3. Indicate the location of your proposed work (such as Southwest Research Station, and/or other fieldwork locales)
4. Acknowledge that you have read and understood the Visa and Tax Information outlined on the Application Instructions page.
5. Indicate if you previously received a grant or fellowship from AMNH. Provide the name of the grant/fellowship you were awarded, the project title, and the year.
6. Indicate the duration of the grant requested (the grant may be spent between July 1 of the application year and June 30 of the following year, and must be fully expended during that period)

Research Grants Documents to Upload

All documents should be submitted in PDF or word processing format. Other options—not preferred unless necessary to preserve information or functionality—include presentations (.ppt, .pptx, and .wdp) and image formats (bmp, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .tif, and .tiff).

Project Plan

Your Project Plan must include the narrative and citations:

- Project description narrative: 2 pages maximum
- Citations: 1 page maximum

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Narrative Formatting Specifications

- **Font:** A font size of 12 points is strongly preferred. A font size of 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figures, table or diagram captions, and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters, as long as the information is readable. Lines should be single-spaced.
- **Margins:** Margins, in all directions, must be at least an inch.
- **Columns:** Use only a standard, single-column format for the text.
- **References:** When references are cited, reference information is required. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. If the document is available electronically, the website address should be included.
- **Previous Lerner-Gray Grant Award (*required if previously awarded*):** If you received a Lerner-Gray grant before, tell us the Project title, award amount, year of the award, and provide a list of publications that resulted. *Include a copy of your report with this application.* Note: 1) if you have not turned in a final project report, you will not be considered for a new award and 2) applicants are allowed a maximum of two grants awarded in different, non-consecutive years.

Curriculum Vitae

Supplemental Material (Optional)

- Up to 1 additional document that you think will support your application (e.g., publications)
- You may **NOT** submit a letter of recommendation in this section. You must use Recommendations Page.
- There is a limit of 1 additional document *maximum*

Budget Form

- Prepare a budget itemizing **only** those expenses anticipated to be covered by the grant and associated with your proposed project (including supplies and travel, but not salary or permanent equipment). Include a brief budget justification. Indicate other possible sources of funding on a separate page to be uploaded with the budget.

Letter of Recommendation (1)

One (1) letter of recommendation is required from someone knowledgeable about your research. This letter may not be from an AMNH curator.

Please choose a recommender who can meet the deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with their recommenders and ensure that they submit the letter on time.

- An email will be sent directly to your recommenders. You will not be copied. Be sure to advise your recommenders of the expected email and the deadline for submission of their recommendation. If you need to make a substitution later, please notify us at fellowships-rggs@amnh.org.

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Visa and Tax Information

Please note that you may have tax withholding requirements on this award if 1) you are not a U.S. citizen and 2) your research will take place in the United States.

Non-U.S. citizens who will conduct research in the U.S. will need to apply for a U.S. temporary visa

Lerner-Gray awardees are advised to enter the U.S. under an F (Student) or J (Exchange Visitor) visa for U.S. tax purposes. You may not use a B visa for these awards. In most situations, AMNH must withhold U.S. taxes at a rate of 14% on payments made to F and J visa holders, on the portion of their grant that covers activities located in the U.S. You will not be taxed on any portion of your funding for activities that occur outside of the U.S.

- Note that when a non-U.S. citizen enters the U.S. under a visa other than F or J, taxes may be withheld at 30% on the portion of the grant that applies to the U.S. visit.
- Each non-U.S. citizen will need to be registered with the Glacier system, the nonresident alien tax compliance system, which the Museum uses to determine appropriate tax treatment of non-U.S. citizens.
- An AMNH finance representative will be in contact with non-resident U.S. citizens to complete the necessary forms.
- If you are a U.S. citizen there is no tax withholding.

If you have questions related to taxes or visas, contact fellowships-rggs@amnh.org

Reminders to ensure completion

Be sure you:

- Fill out the required fields
- Indicate division(s) related to your project
- Provide project description (and progress report for past Lerner-Gray Memorial grant, if applicable)
- Provide a budget with totals and justification
- Provide a CV
- Fill out the recommendation page with 1 reference