

**Ohio Center for Ecological and Evolutionary Studies (OCEES)
GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
2024–2025 Academic Year Fellowships
Due January 26, 2025**



Goals

One of the primary goals of OCEES is to support graduate students in ecological and evolutionary research at Ohio University. The Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) provides competitively awarded stipends to graduate students who are enrolled in masters or doctoral programs and are mentored by OCEES faculty members. The fellowship provides opportunities to complete field, museum, or laboratory research; we are particularly interested in supporting research activities that cannot be conducted while supported by a teaching assistantship at Ohio University. Providing time for writing theses, dissertations or publications is not the goal of this fellowship. **Only students of active OCEES faculty members are eligible for consideration.** Active OCEES members are those routing their grants through the center (listed under Ohio Center for Ecology and Evolutionary Studies in LEO).

Funding

The OCEES Fellowship program provides a graduate stipend for one semester at the level of the degree sought within the student's home department. The tuition waiver must be provided through the home department. The number of fellowships awarded will depend on the availability of funds; currently 2–3 fellowships are awarded each academic year. Summer semesters are not funded. If the needed time is less than a semester, applicants are encouraged to collaborate with another applicant in their home department to split the fellowship in combination with a split teaching assistantship. Please clearly identify your collaborator and the details of the arrangement in this application if you intend to split the fellowship (this arrangement has been difficult in the past, so we can only fund this if it is organized and agreed upon; on the other hand, it increases the number of students we can support).

Eligibility

Previous OCEES Fellows may apply for an additional semester of support, but competitive proposals of first-time applicants are prioritized.

Applicants must:

- be mentored by an OCEES faculty member and have a research focus in ecology and evolution.
- have an approved thesis or dissertation research proposal filed in their departmental degree program before the end of the Spring semester during the year they apply.

Fellows may not hold another research or teaching assistantship (stipend) during the fellowship.

Responsibilities

OCEES Fellows:

- will be required to present a seminar on their work during the Spring semester as part of the Undergraduate Research Immersion Program (BIOS 7000: Ecolunch) and present at both the annual OU Research Expo and annual OCEES Research Fair.

- may be called upon for some activities related to OCEES functions. In particular, funded students will take a lead in organizing a research fair at the end of every Spring semester (the OCEES Research Fair after the OU Research Expo).
- must submit a one page biographical sketch for the OCEES web page and a one-page report of research accomplishments after the completions of the fellowship.
- must acknowledge support of the OCEES Fellowship in all communications and publication.

Criteria for Selection

Applicants will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Merits of the proposed project and meeting OCEES goals.
- Evidence of success of their proposed research (publications and presentations).
- Progress of timely completion of degree requirements.
- Convincing justification of the need for the release from teaching for project success.
- Assessment of the advisor's letter of recommendation.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted to Shawn Kuchta, OCEES Director via e-mail:

- 1 PDF file (named: YOURLASTNAME_OCEES_FELLOWSHIP) including:
 - 1) the application form (next page)
 - 2) your Curriculum Vitae appended to your application.
- 1 letter of recommendation sent from the student's faculty advisor (an active OCEES member) sent via e-mail directly to the director. The letter should address (1) the student's degree progress in relation to eligibility for the award, and (2) how a release from teaching will enhance the student's research and degree. Because most MS students will not have defended their proposal at the time of application, MS advisors should verify in their letter that the student's project and research plan is on path to be approved before the end of Spring semester of the application.

Proposal Due Date: January 26, 2025

Contact: Shawn Kuchta
Department of Biological Sciences
Ohio University
129 Life Sciences Building
kuchta@ohio.edu

APPLICATION

OCEES GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Ohio Center for Ecology and Evolutionary Studies

Applicant's Name:

E-mail address:

Phone:

Department:

Degree program (MS, PhD):

Thesis or Dissertation Advisor:

Year entered program:

Years in program:

Date approved thesis/dissertation research proposal filed:

Expected degree completion date:

Thesis/ Dissertation title:

Proposed research fellowship semester (Fall or Spring):

If you are proposing a split fellowship, please indicate the person you propose to split the fellowship with, the semester, and the class that will split the TA assignment. The course instructor and the graduate chair must consent to the arrangement.

List all RA (stipend) support and non-teaching terms to date:

List research or fellowship funding to date:

Keep the following sections (single spaced, 11pt, times new roman font) to two pages MAXIMUM, not including *Literature cited* if needed, which may be included on a subsequent page. If you have already had an OCEES fellowship please add the section “Justification for a second OCEES Fellowship” after the Literature cited section. These instructions can be deleted to make the space available.

PROPOSED FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH

Summary of proposed research project (500 words):

Justification for full-time research-position (exactly what are you going to do and why the full-time research-fellowship is needed):

Benefit to degree completion and timeline: