NOAA Hollings Scholarship Info Session

November 15th, 2023

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Outline for today

What is NOAA?
What is the Hollings Scholarship?
How do you apply for the Hollings Scholarship?
Panel with current UW Hollings Scholars
Q&A
What is NOAA?

The President's Cabinet

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Veterans Affairs

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.
Senator Ernest F. Hollings

● Senator from South Carolina from 1966-2005
● Helped establish NOAA in 1970
● Major part in
  ○ Coastal Zone Management Act
  ○ Marine Mammal Protection Act
  ○ Oceans Dumping Act
  ○ Sustainable fisheries Act
● All around cool guy
NOAA Ernest F Hollings Scholarship

- increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education and foster multidisciplinary training opportunities;
- increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy;
- recruit and prepare students for public service careers with NOAA and other natural resource and science agencies at the federal, state and local levels of government; and
- recruit and prepare students for careers as teachers and educators in oceanic and atmospheric science and to improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.
NOAA Ernest F Hollings Scholarship

Prestigious!
- Top undergraduate scholarship for marine/atmospheric sciences

Competitive
- ~800 applicants per year
- ~120 awards per year
NOAA Ernest F Hollings Scholarship

Up to $9,500 per year for two years of full-time study

*9,500 x 2 = $19,000
NOAA Ernest F Hollings Scholarship

a 10-week, full-time paid ($700/week) internship at a NOAA facility during the summer
Sophomore
- January: Apply
- April: Award
- June: Orientation at HQ

Junior
- Sept-Dec: Select internship
- Jan-March: Site visit
- June-July: Internship
- August: Presentation at HQ

Senior
- Any Time: Presentation at a conference
A kayak-based survey protocol for Bull Kelp in Puget Sound

Prepared for the Northwest Straits Commission
Emily Bishop
NOAA Hollings Scholar
Limitations and applications of macroscopic maturity analyses: a comparison of histological and visual maturity for three west coast groundfish species

Markus A. Min, Melissa A. Head, Jason M. Cope, Jim D. Hastie & Sheryl M. Flores

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287 Accesses | 1 Citations | 7 Altmetric | Metrics
Sounds great, how do I apply?

*Applications due January 31, 2024 8:59pm Pacific Time*
Eligibility Requirements for this scholarship:

- Be a U.S. citizen;
- Be currently enrolled or accepted as a full-time 2nd year student in a four-year academic program or as a full-time 3rd year student in a five-year undergraduate program (e.g. some engineering programs).
- Earn and maintain a 3.0 GPA in all courses each term and cumulative, as well as an overall GPA of 3.0 in your major field of study. The GPA requirement applies prior to and at the time of application for a scholarship, for the period between application and award notification, and after award distribution.
- Have and maintain a declared major in a discipline including, but not limited to, oceanic, environmental, biological, and atmospheric sciences, mathematics, engineering, remote sensing technology, physical and social sciences including geography, physics, hydrology, geomatics, or education - all fields that support NOAA's programs and mission.
Hollings Scholarship Application Components

1) General/contact info
2) A list of formal or informal research experiences (excluding classroom laboratories)
3) Awards, honors and activities - academic and non-academic
4) **Official** Transcripts from each university attended
5) **Two** letters of recommendation
6) Personal essay (2-3 pages single-spaced)
Letters of recommendation

● At least one must be academic
  ○ From faculty who has taught you who can speak to your academic capability OR
  ○ a TA who has taught you; this letter must be co-signed by the supervising faculty
● The second can be another academic reference or
  ○ Someone who can speak to your capabilities related to the scholarship
  ○ Internship advisor, mentor, lab instructor, etc.
Tips for letters of recommendation

● Ask people who **know you personally**
● Ask early!
  ○ Ideally before winter quarter (3 weeks is **minimum**)
● Ask faculty who you took a class with (and did well)
● Letter writers should be people from your time in college, not high school
● No family/friends/coaches
Personal essay

“A self-description of your academic, research, and career goals as they are related to NOAA’s mission and how your proposed course of study and/or research will help achieve these goals.”

• 2-3 pages single-spaced (6,000-9,000 characters, including spaces)
Evaluation Criteria

Relevant Coursework (30pts)
Essay (30pts)
Letters of Rec (20pts)
Additional relevant experience, honors and awards (20 pts)
Think about letter writers
Think about what you can do in the next year to make your application stronger
-take relevant coursework!

Hollings Prep Program
Hollings Preparation Program

Eligibility:

Freshman undergraduates interested in pursuing NOAA-related science, research, policy, management, and education who:

- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA in their last year of High School.
- Are U.S. citizens, maintain health insurance**, and are able to obtain a low-level government security clearance upon acceptance into the program.
- Available for a 4-6 week, full time internship including mandatory participation in an opening event in early July, 2023, a twice weekly webinar series, and a closing event on mid-August, 2023, where interns will be required to present their work.
Hollings Preparation Program

Components:

● NOAA internship
● $500 scholarship
● $4,000 internship stipend
● Assistance in applying for the full Hollings scholarship in fall 2023

Apply by sending a cover letter and resume to hollingsprep.wcr@noaa.gov by early March 2024
Next Steps (Sophomores)

Prepare to ask for letters
Review information on NOAA website
Letters of Recommendation workshop: November 29, 4:30 pm
Statement writing workshop: December 6, 4:30pm
Workshop for personalized application feedback: January (details TBD)
Resources

NOAA Website
- Read the mission! Learn about the different programs/offices
- Info session video on the Hollings page

UW Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards
- Timeline
- Book appointments for essay review
Applying for scholarships

Click to enlarge

Quick “how to” on using the OMSFA database to search for scholarships

Applying for scholarships

Scholarship advising
Application essays
Build your CV
Letters of recommendation
Preparing for interviews
Scholarship application tips
Scholarship myths debunked

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