



EVOLVING EARTH FOUNDATION STUDENT GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please follow these guidelines to complete your grant application.

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OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Evolving Earth grant program provides grants to support student research in the earth sciences. A total of 10 grants are available each year, for amounts of up to \$3,000 per grant. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers at accredited U.S. colleges and universities or research institutions are eligible to apply for grant funding.

The emphasis will be on research topics that relate to the mission and priorities of the foundation. Please [read our mission statement](#) and [review the grant award conditions](#) to determine whether your research is applicable. You can also [see all grant award winners from previous years](#).

DEADLINE

THE DEADLINE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 2nd, 2020. Applications that are received after the deadline will not be accepted.

REQUIREMENTS

Your grant application must include:

- [Completed Grant Application Form \(PDF\)](#)
- [Proposal Description](#)
- [Detailed Budget](#)
- [Letter of Recommendation](#)

Applications that are missing any of these major elements will not be considered for funding.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submit Online

Email grant applications **in PDF format only** to: grants@evolvingearth.org

Submit by Mail

If desired, grant applications may also be snail mailed to:

Evolving Earth Foundation
P.O. Box 2090
Issaquah, WA 98027

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please:

- read the full Grant Application Instructions contained in this document
- read the [FAQs online](#)
- contact us at: grants@evolvingearth.org

DETAILS

IMPORTANT NOTES

Please note that the final signature block on the Grant Application Form is to be signed by an authorized approver for your institution. Most universities have a grant or sponsored research office that is required to review and approve external grant requests. To avoid delays in the processing of any potential grant award, please check the policies at your institution to ensure that your application receives the proper internal approvals before it is submitted to the Evolving Earth Foundation.

Many universities do not allow students to be listed as the Principal Investigator on grant applications. In those cases, the faculty advisor may be listed as the Principal Investigator with the student as co-investigator. The student researcher is expected to write the grant proposal and to perform the work as outlined in the grant application under the supervision of the faculty advisor.

The Evolving Earth Foundation will only provide grants to accredited non-profit institutions. If requested, you may need to provide proof of your institution's current IRS Tax-Exempt Status. Grant award checks are written to the institution, not to an individual.

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

The proposal description should be clear and concise, and must contain the following sections:

- Proposal Narrative (four pages max, including figures)
- Bibliography (one page)
- Student Researcher Education and Experience (one page)

The proposal narrative should discuss the goals and scientific significance of your research, research methodology, timeline for the project, and expected deliverables (publication, public outreach, etc.)

The education and experience section should list academic degrees that have been earned or are in progress, date awarded, institution, and expected graduation date as applicable. Any publications or presentations from the last five years should also be listed. This section must also provide name and contact information for the faculty advisor.

BUDGET

Provide an itemized budget for your project. Requested items should clearly be required for the proposed research. In addition to itemized costs, the budget description should include the following information where applicable:

- **Total budget for the project** – including the amount requested from the Evolving Earth Foundation and any additional funding sources. Funding that you have received from internal or external sources will add credibility to your application.
- **Equipment and supplies** – provide a list of any consumable equipment or supplies needed to support your research. Non-consumable equipment (i.e. digital cameras, computers/accessories, analytical equipment, etc.) are not normally funded by our grants. If such items are required for your research and not available from other sources, they may be requested in your budget but must be clearly justified.
- **Travel** – provide expected costs for travel directly needed to conduct the research.
- **Publishing costs** – estimated page costs for publication of research results.

Applicants should note that the following items are not funded by Evolving Earth Foundation grants: institutional overhead and indirect costs, salaries, stipends or fringe benefits, and travel to scientific meetings (except as needed for presentation of grant funded research).

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

A letter of recommendation from your advisor is required. The letter should be sent separately via email in **PDF format only** to: grants@evolvingearth.org

Your letter of recommendation must be received by March 2nd, 2020.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Grant applications are reviewed by foundation personnel and are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit
- Applicability to foundation mission and priorities
- Quality of proposal
- Project viability
- Budget efficiency
- Strength of letter of recommendation

Grant applications that support our mission in any way will be considered, although preference will be given to grant requests that directly relate to the foundation focus areas:

- **Understanding of paleoenvironments and paleoclimates** during different intervals in earth's history.
- **Understanding of taphonomic processes** in terrestrial, marine, and freshwater environments.
- **Evolution, systematics or taxonomy** of fossil plant or animal groups.
- **Paleontological, paleobotanical, or paleoecological studies** of specific fossil localities. A multidisciplinary approach is strongly encouraged.
- **Relationships of organisms in paleocommunities** with each other or with their physical environment.
- **Evolution of landforms and geologic features.** This can be on a global, regional, or local scale.

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by April 30th, 2020. All decisions are final.

Note: Notification letters are sent via U.S. Postal Service to the Student Investigator mailing address on your grant application form. If you have not received a notification by the listed date, please contact us at grants@evolvingearth.org

GRANT AWARDS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If your application is successful, we will contact the grant administrator listed on your application to coordinate the grant award. Award checks are written to the institution, not to the applicant.

All grants are subject to our grant award conditions (below).

We require annual updates for your grant funded project, due May 1st of each year until your project is complete or grant funds are expended. Annual reports are informal; mainly we'd like you to check in via email and let us know how things are going. Within sixty days of the completion of your project or the expenditure of all grant funds, we request a formal final report that discusses the results of your project and accounts for the use of grant funding. You may also be invited to share your results in the [News section of our website](#).

AWARD CONDITIONS

USE OF FUNDS

A grant award from the Evolving Earth Foundation is a contribution to the scientific and academic program of the institution receiving the grant. Grant funds are to be used solely for support of the work described in the grant application, as approved by the authorized agent of the institution. Funds are not to be redirected to activities that are outside the scope of the grant application, nor are they to be used for cameras, computers, graphics tablets or other equipment not listed in the original budget unless prior approval is received from the foundation.

CHANGES IN SCOPE

It is understood that research is unpredictable and may require adaptations in order to complete the project. The principal investigator has the discretion to make changes in the emphasis or direction of the research as long as these changes are within the overall scope of the grant application. If significant changes to the research direction are needed, prior written approval from the foundation must be obtained.

REPORTING

At a minimum, progress reports are due by May 1st of each year until the grant funds have been fully expended or until the project has reached its conclusion. Within 60 days after completion of grant-funded activities, a final report is to be completed and sent to the Evolving Earth Foundation. The final report should evaluate the success of the project and include an itemized accounting showing how the grant funds were spent. If there are unused grant funds in excess of \$100, all remaining funds from the grant award are to be returned to the foundation.

TERMINATION

If at any time it is determined that the project cannot be completed as described in the grant proposal, the Evolving Earth Foundation shall be promptly notified. The grantee shall provide the foundation with a full accounting of the expenditure of grant funds to date, and any unused funds shall be promptly returned to the foundation unless the foundation and the grantee agree otherwise in writing.

PUBLICATION

The grant awardee is strongly encouraged to publish the findings of his or her research in the appropriate scientific journals, acknowledging the support of the Evolving Earth Foundation and other donors. It is requested that pdf files or reprints of publications resulting from grant supported research be sent to the foundation.