

Specialized Grants

GSA Graduate Student Research Grant Program

Named Research Grants – Determined by the Research Grant Committee

**Students may request that they be considered for these awards in their online application.*

John A. Black Award*

The John A. Black Award supports graduate student field-based research on coastal processes. All field-based coastal geomorphology research should be located in the USA, Puerto Rico or Canada. In the event there are no worthy graduate student field-based research projects in coastal geomorphology, the award may be used to support graduate student field-based research in volcanology. All field-based volcanology research should be located in the USA, New Zealand or Iceland.

Gretchen L. Blechschmidt Award*

The Gretchen Louise Blechschmidt Award Fund was established for women in the geological sciences who have an interest in achieving a Ph.D. in the fields of biostratigraphy and/or paleoceanography; sequence stratigraphy analysis, particularly in conjunction with research in deep-sea sedimentology; and a career in academic research.

John T. Dillon Alaska Research Award*

The John T. Dillon Alaska Research Award honors the memory of Dr. Dillon, who was particularly noted for his radiometric age-dating work in the Brooks Range, Alaska. Two areas which serve as guidelines for selection of the award are: field-based studies dealing with the structural and tectonic development of Alaska, and studies which include some aspect of geochronology (either paleontologic or radiometric) to provide new age control for significant rock units in Alaska.

Robert K. Fahnestock Award*

The Robert K. Fahnestock Award honors the memory of Dr. Fahnestock, a former member of the Research Grants Committee, who died indirectly as a result of service on the committee. The grant is awarded for the best proposal in sediment transport or related aspects of fluvial geomorphology, Dr. Fahnestock's field.

Gould Research Grant*

The Gould Research Grant supports graduate student research in the geosciences.

Robert D. Hatcher Research Award*

The Robert D. Hatcher Research Award supports field-based research and geologic mapping through an annual award to an outstanding graduate student in the earth sciences to conduct research for that student's master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation. Preference may be given to students working in the Appalachian orogeny broadly construed, but is not restricted to this region.

William B. & Dorothy Heroy Research Grant*

The William B. & Dorothy Heroy Research Grant supports graduate student research in the geosciences.

Roscoe G. Jackson II Award*

One recipient per year in the field of sedimentology.

John T. and Carol G. McGill Research Award*

The John T. and Carol G. McGill Research Award, which is in the memory of John T. McGill, supports graduate student scholarships and research grants in engineering geology and geomorphology.

Bruce L. "Biff" Reed Scholarship Award*

The Bruce L. "Biff" Reed Scholarship Fund was established to provide research grants to graduate students pursuing studies in the tectonic and magmatic evolution of Alaska primarily, and also can fund other geologic research.

Charles A. & June R.P. Ross Research Fund*

The Charles A. & June R.P. Ross Research Fund is awarded to support research projects for graduate students, post-graduate students, and post-doctorate researchers in the fields of biostratigraphy (including, but not limited to, fossil age dating and the study of evolutionary faunal successions), stratigraphy and stratigraphic correlation, paleogeography and paleobiogeography, interpreting past environments of deposition and their biological significance, and the integration of these research areas into better global understanding of (1) past plate motions (plate tectonics and sea-floor spreading), (2) past sea-level events, including their identification and ages, and/or (3) climate changes and effects of those climate changes on the earth's inhabitants through geologic time. There should be, over time, a balance of money among the awards across these various subject sub-field categories depending on the merit of the annual project proposals.

Alexander Sisson Research Award*

Family members of Alexander Sisson established a fund in his memory to promote and support research for students pursuing studies in Alaska and/or the Caribbean.

Parke D. Snavely, Jr., Cascadia Research Award*

The Parke D. Snavely, Jr., Cascadia Research Award Fund provides support for field-oriented graduate student research that contributes to the understanding of the geologic processes and history of the Pacific Northwest convergent margin, or to the evaluation of its hazard or resource potential.

Harold T. Stearns Fellowship Award*

Dr. Stearns established the Harold T. Stearns Fellowship Award in 1973 for student research on aspects of the geology of the Pacific Islands and/or the circum-pacific region.

Lauren A. Wright & Bennie W. Troxel Student Research Award*

The Lauren A. Wright & Bennie W. Troxel Student Research Fund supports graduate students in Masters or Ph.D. programs conducting field-based research in (1) the region broadly centered on Death Valley National Park or (2) the western and southern Basin and Range Tectonic Province.

Named Research Grants – Determined by Divisions and Other Groups

**Students may request that they be considered for these awards in their online application.*

Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award*

The Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award Fund supports research grants through the History and Philosophy of Geology Division for students who conduct historical research within the geosciences. Preference will be given first to doctoral, then master's level students. Graduates who received their Ph.D. in the previous five years may also be considered. The recipient is determined by the History and Philosophy of Geology Division of GSA.

Marland Pratt Billings and Katharine Fowler-Billings Research Award*

The Marland Pratt Billings and Katharine Fowler-Billings Research Award encourages and promotes geological field work and related research in New England and adjacent regions. The recipient is determined by a committee outside of GSA.

Ian S.E. Carmichael Research Award

The Ian S.E. Carmichael Research Award supports graduate student research and related activities in the fields of igneous petrology and volcanology. The recipient is determined by the Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Division of GSA.

Allan V. Cox Research Award

The Allan V. Cox Research Award supports research grants in geophysics. The recipient is determined by the Geophysics & Geodynamics Division of GSA.

Farouk El-Baz Student Research Award*

The purpose of this award is to encourage and promote desert research throughout the world. Up to one male and one female student will be awarded \$2,500 each, based on a proposal for arid land research and a recommendation by an advisor. The recipients are determined by the GSA International Interdisciplinary Interest Group (IIG). (Students applying for general graduate student research grants may be considered for the El-Baz Student Research Award. Students that are not applying for general graduate student research grants may apply separately for El-Baz awards on the [El-Baz Student Research Award home-page](#).)

John W. Hess Research Grant

The John W. Hess Research Grant in Karst Research Studies supports student research involving any aspect of cave and karst studies aimed at providing improved understanding of how caves and karst work, including how these resources can be better managed. The recipient is determined by the Karst Division of GSA.

GSA Hydrology Division Research Grant

These grants are for outstanding student research proposals with a focus on hydrology. The recipients are determined by the Hydrology Division of GSA.

Lipman Research Award

The Lipman Research Fund was established in 1993 and is supported by gifts from the Howard and Jean Lipman Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to promote and support student research grants in volcanology and petrology. The president of the Lipman Foundation, Peter W. Lipman, was the recipient of a GSA research grant in 1965. The recipient is determined by the Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Division of GSA.

Other GSA Graduate Student Research Grants

Students may not make a special request to be considered for these awards in their online application.

Outstanding Mention

Proposals having exceptional merit in conception and presentation.

Diversity Award

This award is presented to help further GSA's commitment to increasing diversity in the geosciences. The recipient is either a member of an underrepresented group or engages in research that relates geoscience to members of underrepresented groups. Underrepresented is defined by GSA as a person from a diverse background that may include low-income, ethnic minority, first-generation, women, veterans, and students with disabilities. The student chosen for this grant will also have the option to participate in the On To the Future program and receive a partial travel award, full meeting registration, and be recognized at the Diversity in the Geosciences Reception at the GSA Annual Meeting.

ExxonMobil/GSA Student Geoscience Grants

ExxonMobil/GSA Student Geoscience Grants are open to all applicants in the GSA Student Research Grant Program, regardless of the topic or location of the research. ExxonMobil will select up to ten proposals based on merit, out of 30 top-ranked proposals recommended by the GSA Research Grant Committee.

GSA Division Research Grants

Several GSA Divisions award grants for outstanding student research within the respective Division's field of interest. For these Division grants (listed below), students apply through the general GSA Graduate Student Research Grant program. The GSA Research Grants Committee will identify the proposals relevant to the Divisions listed below. Copies of these proposals will be forwarded to the respective Division management boards for final award selection. In some cases, the Research Grants Committee forwards just the top ranked proposals related to each Division or award, but in other cases, the Committee forwards all eligible proposals. Each of these Divisions sends a letter of congratulations and a certificate to the recipient(s) with the best proposal(s) in their field. For some other Division grants (listed elsewhere), the Research Grants Committee is not involved; instead, students apply directly to the Division, and the Division manages the entire review, selection, and award process.

**All or some of the funding is derived from a special GSA Foundation fund*

†Award money is in addition to general research grant money designated by the GSA Research Grant Committee

- Geophysics & Geodynamics Division
 - Allan V. Cox Student Research Grant*
 - Supplement to Allan V. Cox Student Research Grant†
 - Geophysics Student Research Grant Award†
- History and Philosophy of Geology Division (H&PoG)
 - Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award*
 - Proposals to conduct historical research within the geosciences
- Hydrogeology Division
 - Hydrogeology Division Research Grant*
- Karst Division
 - John W. Hess Research Grant *
 - Proposals in cave and karst research
- Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Division (MGPV)
 - Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Graduate Student Research Grants*†
 - Proposals in mineralogy / petrology, geochemistry, volcanology, geothermal, or economic geology.
 - Lincoln S. and Sarah W. Hollister Graduate Student Research Award*
 - Field-based research using the tools of metamorphic petrology to understand the formation of continental crust.
 - Lipman Research Award*
 - Proposals in volcanology and petrology
- Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division (QGG)
 - Peter Birkeland Soil Geomorphology Research Award*†
 - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, with focus on soil geomorphology
 - Arthur D. Howard Award (Masters student) *†
 - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, from Masters students
 - J. Hoover Mackin Award (PhD student) *†
 - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, from PhD students
 - Marie Morisawa Award (Female Masters or PhD student) *†
 - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, from female Masters or PhD students
 - Stanley A. Schumm Research Grant Award*†
 - Proposals in fluvial geomorphology
- Sedimentary Geology Division (SGD)
 - Sedimentary Geology Division Student Research Award†
- Structural Geology and Tectonics Division (SGT)
 - Structural Geology and Tectonics Division Graduate Student Research/Travel Grant*†

GSA Section Research Grants

Some of the GSA regional sections provide student research grants. Currently, only one section (Southeastern) provides graduate student research grants, which are chosen from the overall GSA Graduate Student Research Grant pool. To be considered for a Southeastern Section Graduate Student Research Grant, a graduate student must attend an institution in a state (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, PR, SC, TN, VA, WV) that is part of the Southeastern Section and must submit an additional, separate form to the Section. See the [Southeastern Section Student Grants page](#) for details.

Five sections provide undergraduate research grants, for which undergraduate students apply directly to the sections. The guidelines, processes, and timelines used may vary by section and are subject to change. For full details, please see the [GSA Section Research Grants page](#).

Section	Undergrad	Deadline	Grad	Deadline
Cordilleran				
Northeastern	✓	10/1		
North-Central	✓	3/6		
Rocky Mountain	✓	3/1		
Southeastern	✓	4/1 (Postmark)	✓	2/1 (Postmark)
South-Central	✓	4/1 (Postmark)		

Other GSA Grants and Awards

The following grants and awards are offered by GSA Divisions or Interdisciplinary Interest Groups (IIG) outside of the general GSA Graduate Research Grants program. This list is not exhaustive. Please see this list of [GSA Division Research Grants](#), or refer to the appropriate Division or IIG web page for details.

Research Grants for Graduate Students

Award Name	Division or IIG
Claude C. Albritton, Jr. Award	Archaeological Geology
Kerry Kelts Research Award	Limnogeology
Stephen E. Laubach Structural Diagenesis Research Award	Structural Geology and Tectonics & Sedimentary Geology
Antoinette Lierman Medlin Scholarship	Energy Geology
Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Award	Environmental & Engineering Geology
The Eugene M. Shoemaker Impact Cratering Award	Planetary Geology

Research Grants for Graduate Students and Others

Award Name	Division or IIG
Farouk El-Baz Student Research Grant	International
Maurice "Ric" Terman Research Award	International
History and Philosophy of Geology Student Award	History and Philosophy of Geology
Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Division Student Travel Grants	Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Division

Research Awards for Post-Graduates

Award Name	Division or IIG
Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award	Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology
W. Storrs Cole Memorial Research Award	Cushman Foundation