

UC Davis Institute for the Environment
'Earth Scholars' & 'Environmental and Climate Justice Scholars' Awards
for Graduate Students

Request for Proposals
Applications due: May 1, 2025

The [UC Davis Institute of the Environment](#) and its [Environmental Faculty Fellows and Scholars Program](#) supports scholars – from undergraduate and graduate students to faculty and professional researchers – throughout their careers at UC Davis. Through this program we're building a professional development and mentorship network of scholars engaged in collaborative and transformative environmental and climate change research.

This call is for proposals from graduate students (M.S. or Ph.D.) who'd like to participate in the 2025 Graduate Student Award. The graduate student *Scholars* program is designed for UC Davis graduate students who advance progress on the Institute of the Environment's thematic pillars and/or its deep commitment to environmental and climate justice. Each *awardee* will be expected to present their progress at an annual event hosted by the Institute in the year of their award.

With this call, we are offering 2 opportunities to participate:

- (1) *The Earth Scholar Award***
- (2) *The Environmental and Climate Justice Scholar Award***

To be considered for either Graduate Student Scholar award, submit by 5 p.m. May 1, 2025 an application to environment@ucdavis.edu.

For questions about the application process please email environment@ucdavis.edu.

See next page for application details.

(1) The *Earth Scholar Award* for research that addresses the Institute of the Environment's thematic pillars

This opportunity is offered by the UC Davis Institute of the Environment. Successful proposals will address one or more of the Institute's thematic pillars. Students are encouraged to consider how their proposed research advances environmental and climate justice, although this is not a requirement of this set of awards.

(2) The *Environmental and Climate Justice Scholar Award* for research in environmental studies/sciences that contributes to environmental justice

This opportunity is offered by the *Environmental and Climate Justice Hub* at the UC Davis Institute of the Environment. Successful proposals will involve environmental studies and/or sciences research that clearly contributes to environmental justice, including the resolution of environmental inequalities or the improvement of environmental health.

Guidelines for all proposals:

UC Davis graduate students in any department, program, or field and any year may apply. Proposals will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary group of scholars; please make objectives and significance of research broadly understood. Research questions should be clearly stated and methods appropriate to address the questions concisely explained. Research proposed in the application may be currently underway and may or may not be part of a student's dissertation/thesis.

Awards and Expectations: Awards will be made on the basis of scholarly merit, feasibility of completing the proposed work, and fit with the call announcement. Awards of \$8000 each will be made. Funding will be awarded in June 2025 and must be spent within a year. Awardees will comprise a cohort and be required to meet (1) once for a kick off event and introduction to the Institute of the Environment and the Environmental and Climate Justice Hub and (2) and a Scholars celebration at which they will be invited to present a brief presentation or poster on their research.

For more information about environmental justice, and the Environmental and Climate Justice Hub visit: <https://environment.ucdavis.edu/environmental-and-climate-justice-hub>

Applications (3 pages or less) are due **by May 1** by email to environment@ucdavis.edu.

Application Requirements

APPLICANT INFORMATION: Your name & email address

- Graduate group or department; MS/MA or PhD program, Year in graduate school
- Name of faculty member you are working with as a reference
- Indicate for which of the two scholar opportunities you are applying:
 - (1) *The Earth Scholar Award***
 - (2) *The Environmental and Climate Justice Scholar Award***

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (2 page)

- Title of proposal and 1-2 sentence summary

Problem Area

- What is the big question that interests you?
- **For proposals from both scholar types and with an environmental justice component,** what is the specific environmental justice problem you plan to study or are currently studying? Provide a brief background, rationale, and explain how the proposed research may lead to environmental justice, improved environmental health for people, or to the resolution of environmental inequalities; discuss your [positionality](#) in relation to your proposed research?
- Location where research will be conducted/focus and other pertinent information
- Identify specific objectives. Address whether the research described in this proposal is part of a larger project or thesis, indicate the general objective(s) of the larger project and what your proposed work will add.

Methods and Procedures to address the research objectives

- How will the research be carried out?
- What specific methods will you use? Describe how the methods address your objectives (please note that a variety of methods are welcome)
- Timeline for proposed activities, including anticipated start and end dates.
- A proposed budget of \$8,000.