



## UC Merced Natural Reserve Student Research Grant Program

### Background

In Fall 2015, the UC Merced Natural Reserve System will provide research grant awards for students to carry out research within the Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve or the Sierra Nevada Research Stations. Grants are available for undergraduate and graduate students.

1. A total of \$7,000 is available annually. The maximum individual award amount is \$2,000.
2. Grants will be awarded on the basis of:
  - the merits of the proposed research;
  - the feasibility of successfully completing research as stated in the application; and
  - satisfactory progress on research funded by prior UCM NRS awards (if applicable).

### Application Procedure

1. Please describe your project including study objectives, significance of research, brief review of the relevant literature, methods, specific study area, timeline, and itemized budget. Application material must be received by Reserve Director Chris Swarth ([cswarth@ucmerced.edu](mailto:cswarth@ucmerced.edu)) by **November 10, 2015 (5:00 pm)**.
2. Applications must be accompanied by:
  - a letter from the supervising faculty member indicating his/her support of the proposed research; the scientific merits of the project; and the ability of the student to conduct the research according to the timeline
  - a letter from the Reserve Director authorizing use of the reserve for the proposed research;
  - copies of research permits as applicable; and
  - a resume or CV (two pages, please).

**IMPORTANT!** Please submit the application as a single pdf file containing project description and all other requested information and letters of support.

3. UCM Reserve Directors and Reserve Advisory Committee chairs will evaluate and forward the applications to the UCM NRS Director by **December 15**.
4. The UCM NRS Director, in consultation with the Reserve Directors, will make final awards by January 20. **All funds must be spent by June 30, 2016.**
5. Successful applicants must submit copies of appropriate collecting permits, animal care committee approvals (IACUC) before awards will be disbursed.

6. Awardees must submit a progress report to the UCM NRS Director, with copies to the Reserve Directors by **December 1, 2016**.
7. In the case of summer research, enrollment during the preceding spring quarter/semester is acceptable.

### **Application Evaluation Criteria**

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the grant applications:

#### **Primary Criteria**

1. Research Quality. Evaluation of research quality will be based on the importance of the problem, originality, statement of research questions or hypotheses, sampling design and analysis, preliminary data supporting the feasibility of the proposed research, and likelihood of success.
2. Reserve Dependence. Research must take place on the MVPGR or based out of the SNRS.

#### **Additional considerations**

Preference will be given to:

1. Proposals that directly address a research priority for a UCM NRS site.
2. Proposals that are directly related to a student's masters or dissertation research, or in the case of undergraduate research, projects that apply directly to their major.
3. Projects lacking other funding support.