

2022 Churchill Exploration Fund Opportunity

The Churchill Exploration Fund (CEF) was established by and is sustained through generous support from Dan and Betty Churchill. CEF grants promote student participation in scientific exploration, and are particularly geared towards the inclusion of students in remote field expeditions when such activity is not otherwise supported. Given the cost of exploration and the popularity of the CEF program, the available funding in any given year may not cover your total project budget. We therefore encourage students to read these guidelines carefully and seek supplementary funding from other sources to complement a CEF proposal whenever possible.

Eligibility

The grant competition is open to any Climate Change Institute Graduate Student or Affiliated Graduate Student/Mode #1*. Undergraduate students working with a Climate Change Institute faculty member are eligible to participate in a project, but they may not serve as a principal investigator. CEF support is available for currently enrolled UMaine students who are explicitly named in the proposal, and is not normally intended for UMaine faculty and staff. We do not support participants external to UMaine. Should acceptable requests exceed available funding, priority will be given to first time CEF applicants, students seeking support for otherwise unfunded thesis-related research, and students in the initial stages of their degree program and research projects. Students are eligible for one Churchill Fund award per year. If an awardee cannot carry out the proposed research for any non-emergency reason, the award will be voided.

Budget

CEF funds support UMaine student travel and exploration costs, including data-based exploration. Allowable budget items for travel include airfare, excess baggage, ground/water transportation, lodging expenses, per diem, food/fuel costs associated with extended wilderness travel, shipping costs, rescue insurance, and communications. Requests for airfare must include a price quote obtained either through a travel agent or online travel service. Any other travel-related cost exceeding \$300 must be accompanied by a quote for those services. Lodging and per diem expenses are restricted to travel to/from field sites, and are not intended for extended (i.e., more than 3 days) hotel stays unless justified, reviewed and approved by the CEF committee. We will also consider costs related to data exploration, including supercomputer time and data access. Support for laboratory analyses, equipment, software, and other non-travel research expenses is not covered by CEF and should be sought from advisors or other sources. Awards are typically less than \$5000. We will consider multiple proposals for related research, so long as each proposal will generate significant stand-alone results and each budget is well-justified.

Students working in the field must always have a minimum, properly-insured group size of 2. If CEF funds are budgeted for other UMaine student field assistants and insurance, those assistants must be named so that there is a documented group plan. If no funds are budgeted for field assistants, then the student's advisor must certify that other funds will be used to hire an appropriate and insured field party or that volunteer field assistants are available and will be insured.

Proposal Format

State in three pages (including all figures; excluding references) the scientific goals, objectives, and rationale for your request, map of the field area, a detailed budget, project schedule, and a logistics plan that identifies risks and associated risk mitigation strategies. A

*See attached graduate student criteria

letter of support is required from the associated CCI faculty member confirming: a) the value of the project to the student's research and educational goals; b) that no faculty external funding is available for the proposed travel; c) that the student meets the criteria for CCI graduate student status; and d) that the student sought faculty input and has faculty approval of the proposed work prior to submission; and e) that the student and required field assistants have adequate insurance coverage. The CEF committee will hold proposals to a professional standard in terms of intellectual merit, broader impacts, format and technical writing. Please consult with your advisor during proposal preparation, and use various online resources available through funding agencies (e.g., the National Science Foundation).

Awardee requirements

After an award is made, students must give Betty Lee (blicqs@maine.edu) at least two weeks notice prior to drawing travel funds. Awardees will receive detailed instructions on required products. Minimally, they are required to provide a research report written for a general educated audience (2 pages, including details on research activities, findings, significance, field maps and photos) that will be posted on the CCI website. Failure to provide a research report and travel expense report on time (by December 31, 2022 unless otherwise approved by the CEF committee) precludes any future Churchill Fund support, and may impact other CCI opportunities. Theses and publications based in whole or in part on research funded by this program should acknowledge Churchill Exploration Fund support. The committee requests copies of all such theses and publications.

In addition, awardees are required to give an oral presentation on their CEF-funded research at the next CCI Borns Symposium after their Churchill-funded research. Awardees will be automatically entered into competition for the Churchill Award for Outstanding Exploration at that first presentation; at their discretion, they may apply to participate in the competition in subsequent years. If a first-year student had a Churchill grant prior to enrolling in a CCI-affiliated graduate program, they should give an oral presentation instead of a poster unless they did two different projects; in that case, they must do an oral presentation on the Churchill work and a poster on the other work. All Churchill grantees must also submit a mini-paper associated with each presentation.

Proposal submission

For more information, or to apply for support from the Churchill Exploration Fund, please send your proposal to Karl Kreutz (karl.kreutz@maine.edu) and Dan Sandweiss (daniels@maine.edu) with a cc to CCI Director Paul Mayewski (paul.mayewski@maine.edu). Please include in a single PDF file your proposal and faculty letter of support. Proposals that do not follow the format guidelines will not be reviewed. The proposal deadline for the 2022 competition is February 25, 2022.

*See attached graduate student criteria

CCI Graduate Student and CCI Affiliated Graduate Student Criteria

Accepted 28 December 2016

Updated 10 January 2019

Background: The following criteria were developed through meetings involving: CCI Administration (director, associate director, assistant director), CCI Policy Advisory Committee, and CCI Graduate Student Committee; followed by meetings and discussions with CCI faculty, staff and graduate students.

The criteria stated in this document apply to graduate students entering as of 1 July 2017. All graduate students entering prior to this date should adhere to the criteria for graduate student status, responsibilities and privileges in effect at the time they entered CCI.

“CCI Graduate Student” Criteria

1. The student’s faculty advisor is affiliated with CCI or special permission is granted by CCI (see Mode #2 below).
2. The student’s financial support and/or graduate appointment paperwork is handled by CCI administration and/or the student has switched from an affiliated position (see below).
3. The student commits to enroll in the 3 required introductory courses outlined in the *CCI Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Climate Studies Certificate* (ERS 542 Atmosphere, Ocean, Ice and Climate Change (3 credit hours); ANT 510/BIO 510 Climate, Culture, and the Biosphere (3 credit hours) or ANT 530 Human Dimensions of Climate Change (3 credit hours); and INT 500 Interdisciplinary Applications of Climate Science or a substitute approved by the CCI Graduate Student Coordinator (3 credit hours). Any changes to the foregoing requirements must be approved by the CCI Graduate Student Coordinator.
4. The student must submit a Borns Symposium mini-paper and will attend and participate in the following CCI sponsored events whenever possible:
 - a. the CCI Ice Breaker Event
 - b. the CCI field trip
 - c. the Borns Symposium including presentation of either an oral “paper” or a poster
5. The student is eligible to apply for Churchill Exploration Travel Funds.

“CCI Affiliated Graduate Student” Criteria

Mode #1

1. The student’s faculty advisor is affiliated with CCI.
2. The student is encouraged to participate in CCI sponsored events (see above) with mandatory submission of a CCI mini-paper and involvement in the Borns Symposium whenever possible assuming their advisor agrees that their work is associated with CCI.
3. Mode 1 students are eligible to apply for Churchill funds but will have lower priority than students with CCI Graduate Student status.
4. The student has the option to switch to regular CCI graduate student status with permission from the CCI Graduate Student Coordinator.

Mode #2

1. The student’s faculty advisor is not affiliated with CCI.
2. The student requests permission to join CCI from the CCI Graduate Student Coordinator.
3. The student may participate in CCI sponsored events.

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4. The student is encouraged to participate in CCI sponsored events (see above) with mandatory submission of a CCI mini-paper and involvement in the Borns Symposium whenever possible.
5. The student is not eligible to apply for Churchill funds.