

# **Bald Head Island Conservancy**

## **Graduate Research Fellowship in Barrier Island Science**

### **Fellowship Details**

The Bald Head Island Conservancy is now accepting applications for the 2023 Graduate Research Fellowship in Barrier Island Science. The Fellowship provides support for a graduate student to pursue scientific research on Bald Head Island, NC, on a research priority for the Conservancy and in collaboration with Conservancy scientific staff. The Conservancy currently has ongoing research and monitoring projects in the following areas: salt marsh ecology, tidal creek water quality, maritime forest ecology, sea turtle conservation biology, avian and other wildlife ecology, white-tailed deer population dynamics, invasive species, and aquifer dynamics. Projects should be related to one of these topics and appropriate to ecosystems of Bald Head Island and other southeastern US barrier islands. In addition to collaboration with Conservancy staff, it is expected that the Fellow will give a public presentation on the results of the project and provide a 2-page final summary report within 3 months of the funding period ending.

### **About the Bald Head Island Conservancy**

The Bald Head Island Conservancy is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1983 on Bald Head Island, North Carolina. Our mission statement is “We Discover, Learn, Conserve, and Preserve”, and in pursuit of this mission, we conduct barrier island conservation science and research activities and lead a variety of environmental education programs for visitors, scouts, and local schools. Our science and research work falls under three major categories: Environmental Services Contract work for the Village of BHI; Sea Turtle Protection; and collaborative research with academic partners focused on barrier island sustainability science and conservation biology. The Conservancy’s campus has 4 primary buildings including the Barrier Island Study Center with laboratory and office spaces, Fleming Education Building with exhibits and dedicated classroom space, Turtle Central gift shop, and a dormitory to house interns and visiting scientists/educators. Visit [bhic.org](http://bhic.org) to learn more.

### **Fellowship Funds**

Total Award = \$20,000

Funding Period = June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024 unless extension approved by BHI Conservancy. Funds can be used for stipend, tuition, materials, publication, and travel costs. Up to \$1500 of the total award may support travel to a scientific conference to present project results as long as conference travel occurs within 6 months of the fellowship’s end date. Housing on the Conservancy’s campus is included if needed. Distribution of fellowship funds will be subject to an agreement between the Fellow’s university and the Conservancy’s finance team. Institutional indirect costs and equipment purchases >\$500 are not eligible through this award. The Conservancy will hold \$1000 in escrow until the final project report has been submitted.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Must be enrolled in an M.S. or Ph.D. program at an accredited university and have completed year 1 of the graduate program when the fellowship begins in summer 2023.

## **Required Application Materials**

1. Project Description (3-page limit in 12-point font and 1-inch margins not incl. references)
  - a. scientific background of related graduate thesis
  - b. need for proposed project and objective(s)
  - c. research questions and hypotheses
  - d. materials/methods and plans for working on BHI
  - e. project timeline
  - f. how working on BHI and/or with BHIC staff is important to the thesis
  - g. if/how the project might incorporate environmental education/outreach
2. Project Budget (not included in page limit for Project Description) including how funds will support student stipend, tuition, materials, and/or travel fees.
3. Letter of Support from Graduate Advisor
4. Current CV

## **Review Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following:

- Relevance of project to Bald Head Island Conservancy research priorities
- Potential scientific impact of project
- Broader impacts of project, including management implications, education/outreach
- Project feasibility
- Appropriateness of budget
- Quality and clarity of proposal as written
- Academic qualifications of applicant

## **Review Process**

Application Due Date: February 1, 2023

Finalists Notification Date: March 1, 2023

Fellow Selection Notification: March 15, 2023

Funding Period: June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024

## **How to Submit Application**

Applications should be submitted as a single pdf to Chief Scientist Dr. Beth Darrow at [darrow@bhic.org](mailto:darrow@bhic.org). Finalists will be interviewed by the selection panel in early March 2023.