Texas Water Resources Institute

Graduate Student Research Programs

W. G. Mills Memorial Endowment

Fiscal Year 2025 Request for Proposals

Application Deadline: April 15, 2024, by 11:59 PM CST

Mills Award: $7,500
Total Awards Planned: 4

Funding Acknowledgement: Mills awards are provided through the W.G. Mills Memorial Endowment in Hydrology.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Texas Water Resources Institute
make every drop count

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) is happy to announce its call for proposals for graduate students conducting water resources research. TWRI has funds available for graduate students through the TWRI W.G. Mills Memorial Endowment in Hydrology Program (Mills award), which are available to Texas A&M College Station, Galveston and Qatar only. Proposals are due April 15, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.

TWRI anticipates funding 4 graduate research projects of up to $7,500 each in the area of water resources to help Texas address current and future water issues. We expect the funds will become available no sooner than September 1, 2024, and the period of performance ending August 31, 2025. Those students selected for the Mills award are eligible for an out-of-state tuition waiver.

Eligibility

- Applications from graduate students doing water resources-related research in Texas are encouraged. This program can support either ongoing or new studies.
- Proposals should be developed by the graduate student applying for the project in collaboration with his or her faculty advisor. Students with junior faculty thesis and dissertation advisors are highly encouraged to apply for these grants.
- Students must be enrolled at least half-time.

TWRI Research Priorities

Proposed research can deal with a wide range of water resources topics. However, priority will be given to research addressing the science, technology, policy or socioeconomics of:

- Water-related hazards and climate variability
- Water quality
- Water policy, planning and socioeconomics
- Ecosystem and drainage basin functions
- Water technology and innovation
- Workforce development and water literacy

Timeline

The Mills award will start September 1, 2024. The maximum project timeline is one year, ending August 31, 2025, but projects may be completed with funds being spent down as needed earlier than the end date.

Budget

The TWRI Mills Endowment funds can be for tuition and fees, or you can request a categorical budget to cover research needs – salary, fringe, supplies, other direct costs. Equipment and indirect costs are prohibited. These are internal funds and do not need to be routed through Sponsored Research Services.

Other budgetary notes:

- A maximum of **$7,500** may be requested.
- You may request less than $7,500 if needed.
- There is no match requirement.

File Requirements

Please save your application as a Microsoft Word document with the following file name using your name: LastName_FirstName_FY25-Mills_app.

Reporting Requirements

Students will be required to submit a progress/final report at the end of their funding cycle. We will share a template closer to the time for the progress/final report. Students should also include their thesis or dissertation or a summary of it, a manuscript suitable for publication as a TWRI technical report, or a journal article. In addition, those receiving funds must work with the TWRI communications team to publicize their results in the form of photo(s) and a story. Acknowledgement must be given to TWRI's program in any resulting publications for efforts partially funded by these funds. In addition, faculty advisors for students selected for award are responsible for alerting TWRI of any new contact information after the award/graduation to be contacted annually for updates for five years following the funding.

Evaluation and Ranking Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated through a panel review process by TWRI staff and an external selection committee using the following criteria:
Are TWRI Research Priorities being addressed in the proposed research?
Will it help better manage Texas water resources and/or solve future water problems?
Will it advance existing science, or is it new and innovative?
Does the work proposed seem doable? Can the research be accomplished?
Applications that do not adhere to the criteria outlined in this RFP may not be considered for funding.

Application & Deadline

Graduate students interested in applying should complete the Proposal Application Form using the criteria below. The completed Proposal Application Form (Microsoft Word must be e-mailed to Danielle Kalisek at Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu. Proposals must be received electronically by **11:59 p.m. CST, April 15, 2024**, to be considered.

For any questions, please reach out to Danielle Kalisek at Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu.

W.G. Mills Memorial Endowment
2024–2025 TWRI Graduate Student Research Program Application

Please complete all parts of this Proposal Application Form to be considered for the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) Mills Graduate Student Research Programs.

- Proposals should be at least 11-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. Proposals must be received electronically by **11:59 p.m. CST, April 15, 2024**, to be considered.
- The completed Proposal Application Form must be e-mailed as a Microsoft Word document attachment to Danielle Kalisek at Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu.
- The Basic Information and Project Description sections (items 1 – 19) of the application package are **limited to 5 total pages** and all items are required.
- The Required Information section (items 20 – 23) is **not** included in the 5-page limit.
- *Italicized text (instructions)* may be deleted but ensure that each item is titled and numbered.
- This section of instructions above may also be deleted.

Basic Information

1. **Short Title** *of proposal*.
2. **Student Information:**

Student Name			
Student Email			
Student Phone Number			
Student Degree (in progress)			
University			
Department			
Degree Year Started		Anticipated Graduation	

3. **Faculty Information**, title, contact information (email and phone number), university and department.

Faculty Name	
Faculty Email	
Faculty Phone Number	
Title	
University	
Department	

4. **Full Project Title** *of proposal (long title).*
5. **Congressional District** *of your university.*
6. **WRRI Science Priorities:**
   *Choose **one** from the list that most closely aligns with your research project:* Water Scarcity and Availability; Water Hazards and Climate Variability; Water Quality; Water Policy, Planning, and Socioeconomics; Watershed and Ecosystem Function; Water Technology and Innovation; or Workforce Development and Water Literacy.
7. **Cross-Discipline Landscapes.** *Choose **one** from this list:* Arctic, California Bay-Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Columbia River, Everglades, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast, Klamath, Puget Sound, Salton Sea, Upper Mississippi River, or None of the Above.
8. **Cross-Discipline Science Topics**. *Choose **one** from this list:* Climate, Energy, HABs, Indian Water Rights, Natural Hazards, Oceans/Coastal/Great Lakes, STEM, Water Challenges, or Other.

9. **Keywords**. *Enter keywords of your choice that describe your proposed work. Up to 100 characters including spaces.*
10. **Training potential**. Estimate the number of graduate students and undergraduate students, by degree level, who are expected to receive training in the project.

Number of Undergraduate Students	
Number of Graduate Students	

11. **Focus Categories**. *Choose a **maximum of three** categories, starting with the most preferred, from the list included in Attachment A.*
12. **Amount Requested (max $7,500).** List the amount of funds being requested for the year, split by fall 2024, spring 2025, summer 1 and/or summer 2 2025.
13. **Abstract**. Please provide 200 words or less about your proposed research problem, methods and objectives, and describe how your research will address the research priorities.
14. **Plain-language summary.** *Provide a brief (< 150 word) description of the study that could be understandable by the public.*

Project Description

In this section, emphasize how your research will address water resources-related concerns (particularly how, if possible, it will benefit Texas).

15. **Statement of critical regional or state water problems**. *Describe how your research will address RFP research priorities and explain the need for the project, who wants it and why.*
16. **Statement of expected results or benefits**. *Specify the type of information to be gained and how it will be used.*
17. **Nature, scope, and objectives of the research, including a timeline of activities**. *This is the major emphasis of your proposal.*
18. **Methods, procedures, and facilities**. *Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.*
19. **Intended career path** *you anticipate pursuing.*

Other Required Information

(These items are <u>not</u> included in the 5-page limit.)

20. **Would these funds be initiating new research or supporting ongoing research?** *If ongoing, please briefly explain where you are at in the research and project timeline, funding source, funding amount (please differentiate between federal and nonfederal), and project start and end dates.*
21. **Categorical Budget and Budget Justification**. *Please complete the table below indicating what category(ies) you are requesting your funding in and provide a budgetary justification for each of the budgeted items as it relates to your research project. For Other Direct Costs, please enter each line item with the corresponding dollar amounts of each item. Budgets may not exceed $7,500.*

Budget Category	**Budgeted Amount**	**Justification**
Salary	$	
Fringe	$	

Travel	$	
Supplies	$	
Other Direct Costs	$	
Tuition and fees	$	
[Other 1]	$	
[Other 2]	$	
[Other 3]	$	
Total Request	**$**	

22. **Academic qualifications of the student:** *This can include a degree plan, an unofficial transcript, or a list of courses taken and grades*.

23. **Investigators Qualifications**

    Include resume(s) for both the principal investigator(s) student and advisor(s). No resume should exceed two (2) pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

ATTACHMENT A

ACID DEPOSITION
AGRICULTURE
CLIMATOLOGICAL PROCESSES
CONSERVATION
DROUGHT
ECOLOGY
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
FLOODS
GEOMORPOLOGICAL PROCESSES
GEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES
GROUNDWATER
HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY
HYDROLOGY
INVASIVE SPECIES
IRRIGATION
LAW, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLICY
MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING
METHODS
MODELS
NITRATE CONTAMINATION
NON POINT POLLUTION
NUTRIENTS
RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES
RECREATION
SEDIMENTS
SOLUTE TRANSPORT
SURFACE WATER
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
TREATMENT
WASTEWATER
WATER QUALITY
WATER QUANTITY
WATER SUPPLY
WETLANDS