



Pier2Peer Scholarship Program

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Ocean Acidification Program](#) (NOAA OAP), in partnership with [The Ocean Foundation](#), is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for the [Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network's](#) (GOA-ON) Pier2Peer program participants. Awards, typically USD \$5,000, but up to \$7,500 may be granted if justification is reasonable, are available to help support international collaborations between mentors and mentees that result in tangible gains in technical capacity, cooperation, and knowledge. The next application deadline is **April 15th, 2024**.

Objectives

This scholarship opportunity will facilitate collaboration among current Pier2Peer program participants, thereby serving to enhance the quality and coverage of ocean acidification observations and understanding around the world, as part of GOA-ON.

The primary purpose of this scholarship is to build the capacity of scientists who are relatively new to studying ocean acidification (the mentees, or “peers”) by enabling them to design and implement observation and research programs through collaboration with experienced ocean acidification researchers (the mentors, or “piers”).

Proposed monitoring and research should align with the goals of GOA-ON, which are:

1. Improve our understanding of global ocean acidification conditions
2. Improve our understanding of ecosystem response to ocean acidification
3. Acquire and exchange data and knowledge necessary to optimize modeling for ocean acidification and its impacts

Scope and Eligibility

Proposals should outline a joint activity/activities between mentor and mentee, focusing on building capacity of the mentee to conduct ocean acidification research and establishing a collaboration with long-term impacts for ocean acidification observation and knowledge exchange. One or more activities can be proposed, such as virtual mentoring, hands-on training with observing equipment, and/or learning new sample analysis techniques. Examples of what the scholarship could be used for include travel, training materials, equipment costs, and/or information resources. Preference will be given to Pier2Peer pairs that have not received past scholarship funding.

The joint activity/activities should expand the capabilities of the mentee, or both partners, and improve understanding of the challenge ocean acidification poses to the marine systems and dependent human communities in the mentee's region. Proposals should clearly describe how the activity/activities will enable the mentee to contribute to ocean acidification understanding, either directly (now) in the course of the project or indirectly (in the future) through training of other experts in the region and related outreach. Either the mentor or mentee must be from an underserved region and/or underrepresented community in the ocean sciences (such as living in a country on the [DAC list](#) of ODA recipient nations). Please explain how the proposed work will build long-term legacy or capacity for the individual's institution or region, as well as the need for funding and if other funding support is already available.



Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria (**100 points**):

- The ability of the project to expand OA science capabilities of the mentee, including consideration of other available funding sources, if applicable. (*Note: this scholarship is primarily intended to fund capacity building opportunities that are not already funded*) - **25 points**
- The ability of the project to create long-term capacity for ocean acidification research in the mentee's institution or region - **20 points**
- Plan for the mentee to share the knowledge they gain with other interested peers and colleagues to further increase capacity - **10 points**
- The suitability of the activity/activities to the expertise, skill levels, financial resources, and technical resources of the mentor and mentee - **20 points**
- The suitability of the budget for the activity/activities and outcomes - **15 points**
- The ability of the activity/activities to pursue knowledge (chemical, biological or socioeconomic) that fills a gap in current efforts to monitor ocean acidification within the GOA-ON community - **10 points**

Note: The scholarship is not intended to support travel to attend conferences. Exceptions may be made if the travel to a conference is clearly connected to achieving the project goals. The scholarship granted must be spent within twelve months of receipt (this can be expanded on a case-by-case basis if a timeline is proposed in the application), and can be partitioned between the mentor and mentee as desired.

Application Components

Applications should be jointly submitted by the Pier2Peer mentor and mentee, a maximum of four pages, and should contain the following:

1. Project outline to include:
 - a. A brief description of the overall objective(s) and purpose(s) (½ page) and;
 - b. A brief background on the current capacity for ocean acidification monitoring in the relevant region (½ page);
2. Specifics of the mentoring and training activity/activities proposed (½ page)
3. How the project will benefit the mentee and contribute to regional OA capacity by expanding their capabilities (½ page);
4. How the project will share knowledge and increase long-term capacity in the relevant institution or region (½ page);
5. Proposed line-item budget, noting the amount requested by mentor and mentee (½ page).
6. Brief biography of the applicants - this should include an explanation of how the applicant represents an underserved region or community (1 paragraph each)

Submission Instructions

Please submit your application to The Ocean Foundation (IOAI@oceanfdn.org) by **April 15th, 2024** with Pier2Peer Coordinator, Elise Keister (elise.keister@noaa.gov) and all mentors/mentees cc'ed. Scholarship recipients will commit to submitting a report at the completion of their one-year project that details the outcomes of their collaboration and how funds were expended.