

# **National Save the Sea Turtle Undergraduate Scholarship**

## **I. General Goals and Requirements**

The National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation plans to donate sufficient funds to Florida Atlantic University for 4 undergraduate scholarships at \$15,000 each during the 2018-2019 academic year. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to Charles E. Schmidt College of Science seniors enrolled at the Boca Campus who demonstrate academic excellence, financial need, and a commitment to become scholars and ambassadors that represent the marine science program at Florida Atlantic University. As such, they are expected to develop as well-rounded, skilled, and committed individuals who are motivated to engage the public through education, research and outreach activities appropriate to both their specific interests in the field, as well as those of importance in the field of marine biology.

The ideal candidate is an undergraduate about to enter their senior year with interest in any aspect of marine biology research at the organismal (ecological, evolutionary, or behavioral) level and educational outreach. Preference will be given to applicants in good standing in the biology department's Honors Thesis Program who demonstrate financial need, coupled with a commitment to community service, academic excellence, and a desire to enhance their ability to engage the public. These scholarships shall be awarded on the basis of need and merit without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or disability.

## **II. Specific requirements**

(1) The purpose of this support is to encourage outstanding students to broaden their educational experience as a marine biology major at Florida Atlantic University. That goal is achieved by engaging the student in a research project under the direction of a faculty advisor, and coupling that with outreach activity (as ambassadors in the FAU Marine Research Laboratory gallery, describing the goals and significance of the faculty and student research being accomplished) during that scholarship year.

(2) Funds are to be used to cover tuition, fees, and books but not housing. After these costs are met, any remaining funds should be used for supplies and materials associated with the student's research project. However, it is the student's faculty research advisor's responsibility to cover the majority of those costs.

(3) Recipients of the scholarship are expected to devote themselves full time to their studies. They are on their honor not to supplement their income by holding part-time jobs.

(4) Appropriate research projects are those that explore the physiology, ecology, evolution or biomechanical characteristics of any marine organism (vertebrate or invertebrate, animal, plant or microbe).

## **III. Qualifications, applications and timing**

(1) Any biology major that has a gpa of  $\geq 3.0$  through their first 75 h of undergraduate classes (that is, "rising juniors") is eligible to apply. So, as well, are students who approach or exceed these requirements, but have not yet entered their senior year of study. Under special circumstances, awards (at half stipend) may be offered to qualified seniors just before they begin their last semester of study before graduation. Applications are to be submitted to the Program Director within the first 2 weeks of the semester preceding the award.

(2) Applications must include a written statement (< 500 words) describing the student's educational goals, a transcript that summarizes their first 75 h of coursework, and a resumé that includes any relevant experience.

(3) Applicants are expected to have met with, discussed, and agreed to explore a potential research project with one of the marine biology faculty. Applications must include a short memo from the faculty member guiding the student's research, documenting that such an agreement has been reached.

(4) Students already enrolled in the biology department's Honors Thesis Program, or who have already initiated a research project under the direction of a faculty member in the department, are especially encouraged to apply.

(5) Scholarship recipients must complete a report, coauthored with their academic advisor, that summarizes the objectives of their study, its importance as a scientific endeavor, and its accomplishments. The report is to be submitted to the Program Director no later than 3 weeks prior to the end of classes during the semester that the student plans to graduate.

## **III. Selection of successful applicants**

Applications will be considered during the Fall and/or Spring semester by a rotating committee of two marine biology faculty, plus the Program Director for the Biology Honors Thesis program. None of the marine biology faculty can serve on the selection committee for more than two consecutive semesters.