

CWEST Graduate Research Fellowship FAQs

Q: How will applications be reviewed?

A: Our review committee will review applications based on the rubric that is posted on our student funding opportunities webpage. If you have trouble downloading the rubric, then please email CWEST Program Manager at c-west@colorado.edu.

Q: Can funds be applied retrospectively to a past project with a USGS collaborator?

A: This fellowship cannot be used retrospectively. We have limited funds that our USGS colleagues want to invest in future collaborations.

Q: If a student has tuition and stipend covered, but not research supplies are they eligible?

A: Yes, this fellowship will cover the following research costs (travel, conference registration, publication costs, research training at the USGS, lab analysis, consumable lab and field supplies). The applicant's letters of support must explain the other sources of support.

Q: Are equipment requests eligible for CWEST funding?

A: No. CWEST funds may not be used to purchase equipment. If you ask for funds to cover equipment, your application will no longer be considered eligible. Capital equipment, defined by CU as equipment over \$5,000, is an ineligible request. Small equipment under \$5,000 are also an ineligible request. Any research supplies that are not consumable are an ineligible request.

Q: How do you define consumable research supplies?

A: Consumable research supplies are defined as products that get used up and are disposed. Requests for consumable research supplies are eligible for funding.

Q: If a student is on TA-ships, but has received partial support (1 or 2 funded semesters, but not full support) from a funded project where they collaborate with a USGS employee, then are they eligible?

A: Yes. The CWEST fellowship will fund up to \$6,000 of tuition and salary support.

Q: May CWEST funds be used to offset costs for a federally sponsored project?

A: No. CWEST funds may not be used to offset costs for a federally sponsored project, no exceptions.

Q: May current applicants ask to use funds outside of the RFP's project year?

A: No. If you ask for funding outside the indicated project date range in the RFP, then you will not be eligible for funding.

Q: Are there geographic limits to which USGS co-advisors the applicants may work with (i.e., just the office in Boulder, CO? Or also Lakewood, CO, Fort Collins, CO, Menlo Park, CA, and/or Reston, VA)?

A: Given our limited funding, the USGS co-advisor(s) needs to be based in the Denver/Boulder area.

Q: What is the best way to contact a USGS scientists?

A: USGS scientists welcome messages to their @usgs.gov email addresses. Student initiative with the USGS scientists will go a long way.

We welcome further inquiries and opportunities to clarify our fellowship. Please email your questions to CWEST Program Manager at c-west@colorado.edu.