



Sea Grant Law Fellows Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Sea Grant Law Fellow?

Sea Grant Law Fellows are second and third year law students who perform applied legal research and analysis on marine law issues for outside professional organizations such as government agencies, nonprofit groups, and private corporations.

I'm a 1L, can I get experience as a Sea Grant Law Fellow?

Once students have completed their first year, they may apply for the fellowship positions. Interested 1Ls are encouraged to participate in Marine Affairs Institute events during their 1L year and speak with Marine Affairs Institute staff about becoming a Law Fellow.

When can I apply?

Students apply at the beginning of each semester including the summer, depending upon the availability of new projects. Calls for Law Fellows will be distributed through the Marine Affairs Institute.

How do I apply?

Please submit the following materials to Read Porter, Staff Attorney, Marine Affairs Institute at rporter@rwu.edu: letter of interest, resume, two references, and a 3-5 page writing sample (writing samples other than Legal Methods papers are encouraged).

Will I get paid?

Yes, students are paid \$10 an hour.

Can I earn course credit for the research in lieu of being paid?

Yes, certain Law Fellow projects can be worked on for course credit, or to fulfill a writing requirement. Please inquire for more information on this option.

I qualify for financial aid as a work study; can I still apply to be a Law Fellow?

Yes, all students applying for a Law Fellow position are required to see a Financial Aid Counselor in the Financial Aid Office (Room 287) to determine eligibility for work study funds.

How many hours per week will I work?

Students dedicate 10 to 15 hours per week each semester to an assigned project.

How long do projects last?

Most projects are completed in one semester. However, some projects may extend over multiple semesters.



Sea Grant Law Fellows Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of projects do Law Fellows do?

Project Subject Matter	Requesting Organization(s)	Project Description
Healthy Coastal Ecosystems	The Nature Conservancy’s Global Marine Team; Narragansett, RI	The Law Fellow analyzed the <i>Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference</i> policies and contributed research to a national shellfish conservation and restoration initiative.
Sustainable Coastal Development	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council; Wakefield, RI	The Law Fellow researched legal authorities in support of development of the Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP).
Admiralty	Quonset Development Corporation; North Kingston, RI	The Law Fellow researched the processes that must be considered and followed when engaging in a marine construction or dredging project, specifically related to the expansion of the Davisville Port in North Kingston, RI.
Safe and Sustainable Seafood	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Division of Fish & Wildlife, Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office, and the Rhode Island Commercial Fisherman’s Association; Jamestown, Providence, and Kingston, RI	The Law Fellow assessed the legality of <i>Rhode Island Fluke Conservation Cooperative Sector Allocation Pilot Program</i> , a proposed pilot fishery management plan.
Hazard Resiliency in Coastal Communities	Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency; Cranston, RI	The Law Fellow researched legal authorities to assist in the development of StormSmarts Coasts Rhode Island.

How do I know what project I’ll work on?

The Director or Staff Attorney at the Marine Affairs Institute matches selected students with projects based on their interests and availability.

How do I work on a project?

Students work independently, overseen by the Director or Staff Attorney at the Marine Affairs Institute, to conduct legal research and draft written products for the requesting organization. Depending on the project, students may have the opportunity to work with attorneys and professionals at the requesting organization. Additionally, some projects may provide opportunities for oral presentations and publication.

Will I have the opportunity to travel?

Some projects may include attendance at off-campus meetings.