

1 Introduction

The WaterReuse Association is the nation's only trade association solely dedicated to advancing laws, policy, funding, and public acceptance of recycled water. The mission of the WaterReuse Association is to advance law, policy, funding, and public acceptance of recycled water. The fundamental principle of water reuse is using the right water for the right purpose, everywhere and all the time. That means aiding and accelerating the natural process of cleaning the water to make it suitable for its intended purpose, from irrigation to industrial uses, to drinking.

1.1 Purpose

To provide opportunities and grant funding for college students to conduct research on projects related to reclaimed water usage, wastewater treatment, nutrient or material recovery, and recycled water policy. This funding opportunity will engage college students and professors by providing funding to support educational development through research aligned with WaterReuse goals that may be applicable in Nevada.

1.2 Potential Project Areas

- a) Wastewater treatment
- b) Economic feasibility
- c) Water reuse
- d) Material recovery projects
- e) Nutrient and/or material recovery from wastewater
- f) Recycled water policy
- g) Technology
- h) Sustainability and ecosystem management
- i) A combination of these areas is also welcomed
- j) Others (Specify)

Inspiration for projects may be gleaned from WaterReuse's partner organization, The Water Research Foundation, www.waterrf.org/research.

1.3 Who is eligible?

Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) undergraduate/graduate students who are taking at least six credit units. All participating students must be supervised by at least one NSHE faculty mentor.

1.4 Grants

Grants will be available for both graduate and undergraduate projects. While applications from students who have been funded in the past will be considered, priority will be given to new applicants. The grant funds can be utilized for various purposes such as purchasing materials, acquiring small equipment, and obtaining services. Grant funds cannot be used on housing, tuition, or expenses not related to the research project. Academic institutions cannot charge indirect or overhead fees towards grant funds. The table below summarizes the expected number of grants and value.



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Research category	Project Duration	Expected Grant	Number of awards
Undergraduate research	1 year	\$ 500-1,000	1-3
Graduate research	1 year	\$ 500-2,000	1-3

2 Application materials

2.1 Project Description

The project description is limited to **1,800** words. References are not included in the 1,800 words project description limit. The design of a proposed project may be the result of a collaborative effort by the applicant and mentor; however, the project description must be written solely by the student(s). It should be a concise statement including clear hypotheses (problem statement) to be tested or research objectives that will be addressed, including a timeline for completion. The project description must be written so that it is understandable to reviewers whose backgrounds may be outside the applicant's specific field. The project description should contain the following headings and sections.

- a) Title
- b) Project area (See section 1.2)
- c) Abstract [**4 points**]
- d) Introduction (Background on why the project is important and relevant to the water recycling and the water industry) [**12 points**]
- e) Objectives or research hypotheses/questions [**8 points**]
- f) Plans for research work, i.e., methods or tasks to be completed. Include the resources available and unavailable to execute the proposal and tentative budget. [**10 points**]
- g) Timetable: (This must be reasonable and aligned with the academic year) [**6 points**]
- h) Plans for reporting results, which may include presentation or poster presentation at WaterReuse (Nevada) conference or event, or journal publication. Include the dates and conferences you plan to attend and why they are a good fit for water reuse [**6 points, full points if you plan to present at WaterReuse Nevada or similar water conference/event and produce a manuscript**]
- i) Broader impacts (What the project will contribute to the water industry)[**8 points**]

2.2 Collaboration [6 points]

Points will be awarded to projects involving more than one student, students from other disciplines, or projects involving industry collaboration.

2.3 Transcripts [4 points]

Scanned transcripts or downloaded unofficial transcripts from College/University website are accepted. Transcripts of all courses completed, including a list of courses currently enrolled must be provided, including any course taken at a non-NSHE institution. Scoring for overall GPA will be as follows: four points for GPA > 3.8, three points for 3.0-3.8, and two points for < 3.0 for graduate students; and four points for GPA > 3.0, three points for 2.0-3.0, and two points for < 2.0 for undergraduate students.

2.4 Curriculum Vitae (CV) [6 points]

The student must each provide a CV, which is limited to two pages and is not included in the two-page limit for the project description. Highlight the skills that will help you accomplish the project. A template is available at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Student-CV-Builder.pdf>

2.5 Endorsement Letters [10 points]

At least one letter is to be written by the supervising faculty mentor(s) indicating their approval of the proposed project and describing their level of involvement in the project. All proposed mentors should affirm that the application is the original work of the student and that only limited guidance was provided in the document preparation (i.e., review for completeness and appropriate science questions and methods). Each proposed mentor must “sign off” on the application, noting approval and affirming that they have read the student’s application and pledge to mentor the student throughout the project period. The letter must be on official letterhead. It is the obligation of each applicant to include the Endorsement Letters with the application.

2.6 Statement of Interest (SOI)

This section provides the applicant with an opportunity to introduce himself/herself to the review panel. Information that describes why s/he would be a good candidate for this WaterReuse funded opportunity. The SOI must be no more than 600 words. It should include education, training, and other accomplishments as they might relate to successful water reuse science / engineering / technology / policy-related fields or science education fields. Make sure the applicant's full name and email address are in the header of the statement. As a helpful note, an excellent SOI document will include the following: education and career interests, experiences, and goals. Please be thorough but succinct in responding to each point that follows:

- a) Describe your interest in a wastewater and water reuse career as it relates to WaterReuse. **[4 points]**
- b) Describe your technical and educational experiences and how these experiences have prepared you for a grant. **[6 points]**
- c) Extracurricular activities, such as clubs, scientific societies, science team activities, tutoring, volunteering, etc. **[6 points]**
- d) How will this grant impact the applicant's future goals? **[4 points]**

3 Application review process and evaluation criteria:

Grant applications will be selected based on a statewide merit-based review. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The review will focus on the following review criteria:

- a) Quality and feasibility of the research plan and how well it meets the requirements stated in the Project Description section. (Remember to check your spelling and grammar and ensure that anyone from any discipline can understand what you are proposing to research and why it is important).
- b) How relevant the proposed research is to WaterReuse priorities.
- c) Expressed motivation and interest in a water reuse career and a demonstrated level of academic preparation and excellence as reflected by the CV and academic records/GPA, particularly appropriate coursework that would predict success in a research experience.

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- d) Mentor endorsement letter(s) must be strong and supportive of the student's participation in the program, including specific reference to his/her potential and likelihood for success in this program. The level of the faculty mentor's involvement (i.e., their role in the project) should be clearly defined in the letter.

4 Review results and award/non-award announcements.

It is anticipated that the review will be completed by December 2024 and announcements of the review results will be sent by email shortly thereafter. Scholarship funding will be sub-awarded through your NSHE Institution Foundations.

5 Application Procedure and Deadline

Proposals are exclusively accepted as a single PDF document, and they must be fully submitted before 5:00 pm PST Time on Friday, November 15, 2024. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

Application material and questions related to the application must be sent to:

Northern colleges/universities

Name: Jake Kabler / Coral Taylor

Email: jake.kabler@gmail.com / ctaylor@carollo.com

Southern colleges/universities

Name: G. W. Kajjumba

Email: gwkajjumba@gmail.com

While sending the application, the file and subject section must be named as "WateReuse-Application-2024-First Name-Last Name".