Specialized Grants
GSA Graduate Student Research Grant Program

Named Research Grants – Determined by the Research Grant Committee

**Students may request that they be considered for these awards in their online application.*

John A. Black Award*
The John A. Black Award supports graduate student field-based research on coastal processes. All field-based coastal geomorphology research should be located in the USA, Puerto Rico or Canada. In the event there are no worthy graduate student field-based research projects in coastal geomorphology, the award may be used to support graduate student field-based research in volcanology. All field-based volcanology research should be located in the USA, New Zealand or Iceland.

Gretchen L. Blechschmidt Award*
The Gretchen Louise Blechschmidt Award Fund was established to support a female graduate student with interests in doctoral level research in biostratigraphy and/or paleooceanology with an interest, if possible, in sequence stratigraphy and deep sea sedimentology.

John T. Dillon Alaska Research Award*
The John T. Dillon Alaska Research Award honors the memory of Dr. Dillon, who was particularly noted for his radiometric age-dating work in the Brooks Range, Alaska. Two areas which serve as guidelines for selection of the award are: field-based studies dealing with the structural and tectonic development of Alaska, and studies which include some aspect of geochronology (either paleontologic or radiometric) to provide new age control for significant rock units in Alaska.

Robert K. Fahnestock Award*
The Robert K. Fahnestock Award honors the memory of Dr. Fahnestock, a former member of the Research Grants Committee, who died indirectly as a result of service on the committee. The grant is awarded for the best proposal in sediment transport or related aspects of fluvial geomorphology, Dr. Fahnestock's field.

Gould Research Grant*
The Gould Research Grant supports graduate student research in the geosciences.

Robert D. Hatcher Research Award*
The Robert D. Hatcher Research Award supports field-based research and geologic mapping through an annual award to an outstanding graduate student in the earth sciences to conduct research for that student’s master’s thesis or Ph.D. dissertation. Preference may be given to students working in the Appalachian orogeny broadly construed, but is not restricted to this region.

William B. & Dorothy Heroy Research Grant*
The William B. & Dorothy Heroy Research Grant supports graduate student research in the geosciences.

Grant & Jody Heiken Research Grant
The Grant & Jody Heiken Research Grant supports graduate student research in any field work-oriented geoscience-related discipline.

Roscoe G. Jackson II Award*
One recipient per year in the field of sedimentology.

John T. and Carol G. McGill Research Award*
The John T. and Carol G. McGill Research Award, which is in the memory of John T. McGill, supports graduate student scholarships and research grants in engineering geology and geomorphology.

Bruce L. "Biff" Reed Scholarship Award*
The Bruce L. "Biff" Reed Scholarship Fund was established to provide research grants to graduate students pursuing studies in the tectonic and magmatic evolution of Alaska primarily, and also can fund other geologic research.

Charles A. & June R.P. Ross Research Fund*
The Charles A. & June R.P. Ross Research Fund is awarded to support research projects for graduate students, post-graduate students, and post-doctorate researchers in the fields of biostratigraphy (including, but not limited to, fossil age dating and the study of evolutionary faunal successions), stratigraphy and stratigraphic correlation, paleogeography and paleobiogeography, interpreting past environments of deposition and their biological significance, and the integration of these research areas into better global understanding of (1) past plate motions (plate tectonics and sea-floor spreading), (2) past sea-level events, including their identification and ages, and/or (3) climate changes and effects of those climate changes on the earth's inhabitants through geologic time. There should be, over time, a balance of money among the awards across these various subject sub-field categories depending on the merit of the annual project proposals.

Alexander Sisson Research Award*
Family members of Alexander Sisson established a fund in his memory to promote and support research for students pursuing studies in Alaska and/or the Caribbean.

Parke D. Snavely, Jr., Cascadia Research Award*
The Parke D. Snavely, Jr., Cascadia Research Award Fund provides support for field-oriented graduate student research that contributes to the understanding of the geologic processes and history of the Pacific Northwest convergent margin, or to the evaluation of its hazard or resource potential.

Harold T. Stearns Fellowship Award*
Dr. Stearns established the Harold T. Stearns Fellowship Award in 1973 for student research on aspects of the geology of the Pacific Islands and/or the circum-pacific region.

Tim F. Wawrzyniec Research Award
The purpose of the Tim F. Wawrzyniec Fund is to support graduate and undergraduate student research field work in the Rockies and the Colorado Plateau, with preference for projects in the following areas; structure, tectonics, paleomagnetism, petrology, petroleum geology, and Quaternary geomorphology.

Lauren A. Wright & Bennie W. Troxel Student Research Award*
The Lauren A. Wright & Bennie W. Troxel Student Research Fund supports graduate students in Masters or Ph.D. programs conducting field-based research in (1) the region broadly centered on Death Valley National Park or (2) the western and southern Basin and Range Tectonic Province.

Named Research Grants – Determined by Divisions and Other Groups

**Students may request that they be considered for these awards in their online application.*

Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award*
The Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award Fund supports research grants through the History, Philosophy and Geoheritage Division for students who conduct historical research within the geosciences, with a focus on research that addresses the people, philosophy, and/or events and cultural contexts that have influenced the development of the geosciences. Preference will be given first to doctoral, then master's level students. Graduates who received their Ph.D. in the previous five years may also be considered. The recipient is determined by the History, Philosophy and Geoheritage Division of GSA.

Marland Pratt Billings and Katharine Fowler-Billings Research Award*
The Marland Pratt Billings and Katharine Fowler-Billings Fund for Research in New England Geology funds fieldwork-based proposals focusing on New England and adjacent regions of Canada and New York. Successful proposals will emphasize field research that leads to geologic mapping and related spatial analysis, while purely sampling or laboratory-based proposals will generally not be funded.

Peter Birkeland Soil Geomorphology Research Award
The purpose of the Peter Birkeland Soil Geomorphology Research Award is to support promising M.S. and Ph.D. graduate students working on a thesis with a research focus in soil geomorphology. In the event there are no soil geomorphology applicants, the award may go to a student doing research in the general field of weathering, Quaternary stratigraphy, or geomorphology, in that order. Any research grant application that has "Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology" selected as the General Field of Research Project will be automatically eligible for consideration for our awards. PLEASE NOTE that a single application can be simultaneously considered for multiple awards.

Sam Bowring Geochronology Research Award *
The Sam Bowring Geochronology Fund supports graduate student field work in geochronology. The recipient is determined by the Geochronology Division of GSA.

Ian S.E. Carmichael Research Award
The Ian S.E. Carmichael Research Award supports graduate student research and related activities in the fields of igneous petrology and volcanology. The recipient is determined by the Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Division of GSA.

Donald R. Coates Geomorphology Research Award
The Donald Coates Award Fund was established in 2020 to support graduate student research on Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology. This award is given annually to at least one outstanding MS or PhD student, on the basis of a research proposal submitted to the GSA Student Research Grant Program. Former QG&G Division Chair, Grant Meyer, launched the initiative to designate this award for research support to graduate students in geomorphology who are from a demographic community that is currently underrepresented within QG&G Division membership, which includes student members from the Black, Indigenous, Latinx/Hispanic, Asian or other Communities of Color, members who identify as LGBTQI+, members with disabilities, or older student-members who have taken atypical pathways into graduate school. Eligible candidates are drawn from the pool of students who volunteer their demographic information during the GSA Student Research Grant Program application process.

Allan V. Cox Research Award
The Allan V. Cox Research Award supports research grants in geophysics. The recipient is determined by the Geophysics & Geodynamics Division of GSA.

Denton, Andrews, Porter Glacial Geology Award *
Support is provided for graduate or undergraduate research in the areas of glacial geology, including glaciology, glacial geomorphology, glacial chronology, or a related field, such as paleoclimatology or climate change.

Farouk El-Baz Student Research Award*
The purpose of this award is to encourage and promote desert research throughout the world. Up to two students will be awarded $2,500 each, based on a proposal for arid land research and a recommendation by an advisor. The recipients are determined by the GSA International Interdisciplinary Interest Group (IIG). (Students applying for general graduate student research grants may be considered for the El-Baz Student Research Award. Students that are not applying for general graduate student research grants may apply separately for El-Baz awards on the El-Baz Student Research Award home-page.)

John W. Hess Research Grant
The John W. Hess Research Grant in Karst Research Studies supports student research involving any aspect of cave and karst studies aimed at providing improved understanding of how caves and karst work, including how these resources can be better managed. The recipient is determined by the Karst Division of GSA.

Lincoln S. and Sarah W. Hollister Graduate Student Research Award
The Lincoln S and Sarah W. Hollister Graduate Student Research Awards Fund is to support research grants to graduate students working on field-based theses and dissertations that use the tools of metamorphic petrology for understanding the formation of continental crust. Tools include, but are not limited to, phase equilibria based on data obtained with the electron microprobe or SEM/EDS, radiometric analysis, ductile deformation including data from EBSD, fluid inclusions, trace element analysis, and crustal seismology. As relevant, the awards will seek to enhance the recipient's ability to reach remote regions and to conduct research in the safest manner possible. The recipient is determined by the Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Division of GSA.

Arthur D. Howard Award (Masters student) *
The award is given annually to an outstanding M.S. student, on the basis of a research proposal submitted to the GSA student research grant program. Evaluation of the proposals is done by the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology management board and an ad-hoc review committee of Division members.

Lipman Research Award
The Lipman Research Fund was established in 1993 and is supported by gifts from the Howard and Jean Lipman Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to promote and support student research grants in volcanology and petrology. The president of the Lipman Foundation, Peter W. Lipman, was the recipient of a GSA research grant in 1965. The recipient is determined by the Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Division of GSA.

J. Hoover Mackin Award (PhD student) *
The award is given annually to an outstanding Ph.D. student, on the basis of a research proposal submitted to the GSA student research grant program. Evaluation of the proposals is done by the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology management board and an ad-hoc review committee of Division members.

Marie Morisawa Award (Female Masters or PhD student) *
The Marie Morisawa Award was established in 2006 to honor Dr. Marie Morisawa, one of the first women to maintain a high profile in Quaternary geology and geomorphology throughout her career. The purpose of the award is to support promising female M.S. and Ph.D. graduate students pursuing a career in geomorphology. Female scientists in geomorphology currently enrolled in a Masters or Ph.D. program are encouraged to

apply. Evaluation of the proposals is done by the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology management board and an ad-hoc review committee of Division members.

Troy L. Péwé Award *
The purpose of the Fund is to support research grants to graduate students in the field of periglacial geology through the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division (QG&G). In the event there are not any applications focused on periglacial geology, the award may go to a student doing research in any area of Quaternary geology or geomorphology. Annual awards will be made by the QG&G Division of the Geological Society of America (GSA), through a process determined by the QG&G Division's Management Board in consultation with GSA.

Stanley A. Schumm Research Grant Award *
The Schumm Fund supports student research in fluvial geomorphology. Stanley A. Schumm was one of the foundational figures of fluvial geomorphology in the latter half of the 20th century. The conceptual models he developed for river process and form continue to influence how contemporary geomorphologists think about river systems.

Shroder Mass Movement Research Award *
The Shroder Mass Movement Award was established in 2016 to support research grants to graduate students working on their thesis or dissertation in the field of mass movement.

Richard and Cynthia Waitt Research Award for Field-based Research *
The Richard and Cynthia Waitt Award for Field-based Research in Physical Volcanology and/or Surficial Geology supports graduate student research grants in the field of surficial geology (e.g., mapping and/or stratigraphy, field sedimentology, or geomorphology) through the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division (QG&G). The grant is intended to encourage substantial fieldwork: geologic research carried out largely in the field rather than sample collection for laboratory-based projects. Equally with Quaternary geology, the award may go to a student doing such substantial field-based research in physical volcanology of fragmented materials (not geophysics or petrology). The award is open for PhD and MS students.

Dr. Thomas C. Winter Graduate Student Research Award *
The purpose of the Dr. Thomas C. Winter Graduate Student Research Award Fund is to support research grants to graduate students working on hydrogeology/hydrology research projects.

Other GSA Graduate Student Research Grants

Students may not make a special request to be considered for these awards in their online application.

Outstanding Mention
Proposals having exceptional merit in conception and presentation.

GSA Division Research Grants

Several GSA Divisions award grants for outstanding student research within the respective Division's field of interest. For these Division grants, students apply through the general GSA Graduate Student Research Grant program and their proposals are initially reviewed by the GSA Research Grants Committee. Student proposals in certain subject areas will be forwarded to the respective Division management boards for final award selection. In some cases, only the top-ranked proposals are forwarded, but in other cases, all eligible proposals are forwarded. These Divisions send a letter of congratulations and a certificate to the recipient(s) with the best proposal(s) in their field. For some other Division grants (listed elsewhere), the Research Grants Committee is not involved; instead, students apply directly to the Division, and the Division manages the entire review, selection, and award process.
**All or some of the funding is derived from a special GSA Foundation fund*
†Award money is in addition to general research grant money designated by the GSA Research Grant Committee

- Continental Scientific Drilling Division
  - Continental Scientific Drilling Division Student Research Grant *
- Geochronology Division
  - Sam Bowring Geochronology Research Award *
    - Proposals involving field work in geochronology
- Geophysics & Geodynamics Division
  - Allan V. Cox Student Research Grant *†
  - Supplement to Allan V. Cox Student Research Grant †
  - Geophysics Student Research Grant Award †
- History, Philosophy and Geoheritage Division
  - Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award *
    - Proposals to conduct historical research within the geosciences, with a focus on research that addresses the people, philosophy, and/or events and cultural contexts that have influenced the development of the geosciences.
- Hydrogeology Division
  - Hydrogeology Division Research Grant *
  - Dr. Thomas C. Winter Graduate Student Research Award *†
    - Proposals in hydrogeology/hydrology research
- Karst Division
  - John W. Hess Research Grant *†
    - Proposals in cave and karst research
- Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Division (MGPV)
  - Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Graduate Student Research Grants *†
    - Proposals in mineralogy / petrology, geochemistry, volcanology, geothermal, or economic geology.
  - Lincoln S. and Sarah W. Hollister Graduate Student Research Award *†
    - Field-based research using the tools of metamorphic petrology to understand the formation of continental crust.
  - Lipman Research Award *†
    - Proposals in volcanology and petrology
  - Ian S.E. Carmichael Research Award *†
    - Proposals in igneous petrology and volcanology
- Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division (QG&G)
  - Peter Birkeland Soil Geomorphology Research Award *
    - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, with focus on soil geomorphology
  - Donald R. Coates Geomorphology Research Award
    - Proposals in geomorphology; intended to recognize individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color as well as all other groups that are underrepresented in the geosciences. *
  - Denton, Andrews, Porter Glacial Geology Award *

        - Proposals in glacial geology (glaciology, glacial geomorphology, glacial chronology, etc.; if there are no appropriate proposals in these areas then proposals in other related fields, such as paleoclimatology or climate change, may be considered).
    - Arthur D. Howard Award (Masters student) *
        - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, from Masters students
    - J. Hoover Mackin Award (PhD student) *
        - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, from PhD students
    - Marie Morisawa Award (Female Masters or PhD student) *
        - Proposals in quaternary geology & geomorphology, from female Masters or PhD students
    - Troy L. Péwé Award *
        - Proposals in the field of periglacial geology. In the event there are not any applications focused on periglacial geology, the award may go to a student doing research in any area of Quaternary geology or geomorphology.
    - Stanley A. Schumm Research Grant Award *
        - Proposals in fluvial geomorphology
    - Shroder Mass Movement Research Award
        - Proposals in the field of mass movement *
    - Richard B. and Cynthia W. Waitt Research Award for Field-based Research *
        - Proposals in the field of surficial geology (e.g., mapping and/or stratigraphy, field sedimentology, or geomorphology)
- Sedimentary Geology Division (SGD)
    - Sedimentary Geology Division Student Research Award†
- Structural Geology and Tectonics Division (SGT)
    - Structural Geology and Tectonics Division Graduate Student Research/Travel Grant*†

GSA Section Research Grants

Some of the GSA regional sections provide student research grants. Currently, only one section (Southeastern) provides graduate student research grants, which are chosen from the overall GSA Graduate Student Research Grant pool. To be considered for a Southeastern Section Graduate Student Research Grant, a graduate student must attend an institution in a state (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, PR, SC, TN, VA, WV) that is part of the Southeastern Section and must submit an additional, separate form to the Section. See the Southeastern Section Student Grants page for details.

Five sections provide undergraduate research grants, for which undergraduate students apply directly to the sections. The guidelines, processes, and timelines used may vary by section and are subject to change. For full details, please see the GSA Section Research Grants page.

Section	Undergrad	Deadline	Grad	Deadline
Cordilleran	✓	4/10		
Northeastern	✓	4/10		
North-Central	✓	4/10		
Rocky Mountain	✓	4/10		
Southeastern	✓	4/10	✓	2/18
South-Central	✓	4/10		

Other GSA Grants and Awards

The following grants and awards are offered by GSA Divisions or Interdisciplinary Interest Groups (IIG) outside of the general GSA Graduate Research Grants program. This list is not exhaustive. Please see this list of GSA Division Research Grants, or refer to the appropriate Division or IIG web page for details.

Research Grants for Graduate Students

Award Name	Division or Other Group
Claude C. Albritton, Jr. Award	Archaeological Geology
Kerry Kelts Research Award	Limnogeology
Stephen E. Laubach Structural Diagenesis Research Award	Structural Geology and Tectonics & Sedimentary Geology
Antoinette Lierman Medlin Scholarship	Energy Geology
Roy J. Shlemon Scholarship Award	Environmental & Engineering Geology
The Eugene M. Shoemaker Impact Cratering Award	Planetary Geology

Research Grants for Graduate Students and Others

Award Name	Division or Other Group
Farouk El-Baz Student Research Grant	International
Maurice "Ric" Terman Research Award	International & CCOP
History and Philosophy of Geology Student Award	History and Philosophy of Geology
Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Division Student Travel Grants	Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, & Volcanology Division
Student Research Awards (Grad and Undergrad)	Soils and Soil Processes Division

Research Awards for Post-Graduates

Award Name	Division or Other Group
Gladys W. Cole Memorial Research Award	Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology
W. Storrs Cole Memorial Research Award	Cushman Foundation
Continental Scientific Drilling Division Research Support Grants (Early Career)	Continental Scientific Drilling Division