

Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation

Wildlife Research & Education

P. O. Box 1400 Sinton, Texas 78387-1400

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Greetings from the Welder Wildlife Foundation:

Thank you for your interest in the Welder Wildlife Foundation's research scholarship program. Studies are limited to the continental United States.

This award is directed to graduate study at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels only. Application packets must include the following:

1. An a) abbreviated proposal with degree sought, b) estimated budget, and c) project timeline signed by the student's major advisor or a qualified member of the university faculty
2. Student credentials including:
 - resume
 - transcripts (GPA of 3.0/4.0 required)
 - GRE scores (300 or above required)
 - three letters of recommendation for student

The deadline for submission of application materials is Oct. 1 for projects beginning the following year.

The Foundation will consider research proposals in the areas of animal behavior, biology, botany, conservation education, ecology, genetics, mammalogy, ornithology, parasitology, range science, veterinary pathology, and wildlife sciences. Other things being equal, proposals will be ranked in the following order of descending priority:

1. Studies already in progress which need to be extended into or through the coming year.
2. New studies which would be initiated on the Foundation Refuge or within the south Texas region.
3. Proposals having to do with problems or species in which we have a special interest because of their relationship to our area or on which we have done some work previously.
4. After consideration of the above criteria and if funds remain, we then take into consideration projects originating elsewhere within the continental U.S. and those making the greatest contribution to wildlife management in general.

Scholarship stipends for full-time students are \$1800.00 per month for M.S. candidates and \$2000.00 per month for Ph.D. candidates to cover living costs, tuition, fees, and books. Students may not hold graduate or teaching assistantships or other employment while receiving a Welder scholarship.

Proposals should be sent to Director, Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Box 1400, Sinton, TX 78387. Additional inquiries may be made by phone at 361-364-2643.

Sincerely,

Terry Blankenship, Director

tblankenship@welderwildlife.org

Welder Wildlife Foundation Application Policy and Procedures

The Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation's graduate student fellowship program was founded in 1956 to support outstanding graduate students seeking advanced degrees in the field of wildlife science. Previous scholarship recipients have studied animal behavior, biology, botany, conservation education, ecology, genetics, mammalogy, ornithology, parasitology, range science, veterinary pathology, and wildlife sciences.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awarded directly to accredited U.S. colleges or universities for graduate students who have been approved as candidates for M.S. or Ph.D. degrees and after project proposals have been approved by the Foundation. To be eligible for financial support, a student must have a minimum GRE score of 300 (verbal plus quantitative) and a "B" or higher average in the last two years of undergraduate or graduate work.

Academic institutions are responsible for the competitive selection and supervision of scholarship recipients, subject to Foundation approval. Students working on or near the Refuge are provided dormitory-apartment living quarters, utilities, office space, and such field and laboratory facilities as are available. The Foundation does not provide transportation for students.

Scholarships for full-time students amount to \$1,800.00 per month for M.S. candidates and \$2,000.00 per month for Ph.D. candidates to cover living costs, tuition, fees, and books. For those months in which students receive full support from the Foundation they are precluded from receiving additional assistance for which they are obligated to perform other duties, i.e., they may not hold overlapping graduate or teaching assistantships or other employment. If a student's university requires that the student perform a teaching assignment, then scholarship funds and budget requests must reflect plans for any teaching assignments that include remuneration. When this situation arises, the Foundation may temporarily suspend the student's fellowship during the semester the student is required to teach. G.I. Bill benefits are not involved with these requirements, except they and all other sources of support must be listed in the proposal budget. Recipients must satisfy all registration requirements of their respective institutions.

Scholarships are granted on a calendar year basis; however, the Foundation recognizes its obligation to continue support until the work is completed, provided the student demonstrates a superior degree of scholarship, ability to do research, dedication, and personal development. Continued support is dependent on the Foundation's availability of funds. Requests usually exceed the annual scholarship budget; therefore, the Foundation must exercise selectivity within its stated priorities.

EQUIPMENT & PERMITTING

Funds for equipment and supplies are generally not allocated in student budgets. Smaller grants may be made for the partial support of cooperative projects. **In no instance is overhead or indirect costs paid to the student's university.**



If specimens are required for the study, students and their major professors must have approval from the Foundation Directors before the project begins and must have the proper federal or state collecting permits. Copies of all permit reports, records, etc. must be filed in the Foundation office. Students should check with the Directors on any required special permit provisions.

Non-expendable equipment (e.g., cameras, calipers, etc.) purchased with Foundation funds shall revert to the Foundation after the project is completed. The Foundation shall be contacted for a decision regarding the status of such equipment when there is doubt about the expendable or nonexpendable nature of the items. Equipment should be returned in working condition although the occurrence of normal wear is recognized.

PROJECT TRAVEL FOR RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

1. Project travel will be allocated at a maximum of \$1,200 per year, pro-rated at \$100/mo in accordance with the number of months the student is doing fieldwork. The student's major professor is encouraged to travel to the project study area at least once, and one advisory/inspection trip may be budgeted, not to exceed \$500.

2. All Foundation Fellowship recipients are encouraged to present the results of their field research at appropriate professional meetings. The Foundation will reimburse the student for travel to one professional meeting upon or near completion of his/her data analysis and thesis/dissertation defense if the student is presenting a paper at the meeting. All requests must be initiated with and approved by the Foundation Director prior to travel, and the paper must have been approved by the student's major advisor before the Foundation will fund the travel. Funding will be considered when the student presents a letter of acceptance for his/her paper or poster and an estimate of travel expenses. Reimbursement will be as follows: (1) registration fee, (2) coach-class airfare, (3) up to \$200.00/day for expenses including hotel bills, food, and other expenses for a maximum of three days. Payment will be made following submission of receipts by the student. Students are encouraged to purchase airline tickets early, search for the lowest fares, and use economical hotels.

3. Additionally, every three years the foundation hosts the Welder Wildlife Foundation Student Symposium at the Welder Wildlife Refuge in the fall of the year for all current Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellows. Students and their professors are asked to attend to present on the student's research. Travel, lodging, and meals for the symposium are supported by the Foundation.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Once accepted, the student will be expected to provide to the Foundation

- biannual progress and grade reports,
- an annual abstract with photos for use Welder's annual report
- one hardbound and one electronic copy of their thesis, dissertation, and any publications produced from their research

More information will be provided on these once a student is accepted.



APPLICATIONS

Initially, applications and abbreviated proposals may be submitted in letter form and must be signed by a qualified member of the faculty at the parent university.

The deadline for scholarship applications is October 1 for consideration of funding for the following calendar year.

Applications, including project proposals, should be mailed to Director, Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Box 1400, Sinton, Texas 78387, or sent electronically to tblankenship@welderwildlife.org.

This information is also available on our website: www.welderwildlife.org

