2026 NorCal SETAC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS APPLICATION

www.norcalsetac.com

General Information and Instructions

NorCal SETAC Research Scholarship Awards are awarded to graduate and undergraduate students studying in the environmental sciences, with a special focus on the fields of environmental toxicology and chemistry. Successful applicants must demonstrate their potential to carry out **research projects** related to the goals of NorCal SETAC. The recipient(s) will receive $1,000 (undergraduates) or $2,000 (graduates) for their research project. Scholarships can be used for a new project or to supplement an existing project where additional funds are needed. Funds can also be used for travel to present research findings at a scientific meeting. Priority will be given to research projects over travel. The request for proposals is announced on the NorCal SETAC website (www.norcalsetac.com). ***Applications are due on April 6, 2026***. Awardees are expected to present their research at a NorCal SETAC meeting in Spring 2026.

Environmentally relevant fields of study include, but are not limited to:

- x Analytical chemistry
- x Anatomy
- x Aquatic toxicology
- x Atmospheric science
- x Biology
- x Classical toxicology
- x Ecology
- x Economics
- x Environmental chemistry
- x Environmental science
- x Genetics
- x Microbiology
- x Organic chemistry
- x Physiology
- x Soil sciences and engineering
- x Water science and engineering

The **Goals of NorCal SETAC** are to:

- Promote research, education, training and development of the environmental sciences in our region, specifically in the areas of environmental toxicology and chemistry, and hazard and risk assessment.
- Sponsor scientific and educational programs and provide a forum for communication among professionals in government, academia and business, and other segments of the scientific community involved in protection and management of the environment.
- Encourage interaction among environmental scientists, managers, and the regulated community and disseminate information on environmental toxicology, chemistry, and assessment.
- Promote the systematic application of all relevant scientific disciplines to the evaluation of chemical hazards.
- Participate in the scientific interpretation of issues concerned with hazard assessment and risk analysis.
- Support the development of ecologically acceptable practices and principles.

ELIGIBILITY

An applicant must:

(a) Be a registered undergraduate or graduate student working in the environmental sciences.
(b) Have a minimum GPA of 3.00.

(c) Submit a NorCal SETAC Research Scholarship Proposal to the NorCal SETAC office following the guidelines stated below under Proposal Preparation.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

A complete application package will include:

- Application Form
- Research Proposal (see instructions below)
- Research Budget Form
- Recommendation Form (sent by faculty sponsor; you are responsible for arranging that the form is received by the deadline)

****You must submit one electronic copy of the complete application package****

Research Proposal: Proposals should be 3–4 pages in length, using double-spaced text. The cover page (application form), budget page, and list of references are not included in this page limitation. Minimum type or font size must be 12. Write your proposal concisely for review by the NorCal SETAC staff.

The proposal should include the following sections:

1. Title of Proposal
2. Background and Rationale
    - Why is this project needed?
    - What is new about it?
3. Hypothesis and Specific Objectives
    - What are the specific objectives to be addressed? If your study is part of a larger project, clearly indicate the general objective(s) of the larger project and what your proposed work adds to the overall project.
4. Procedures
    - How will the research be carried out?
    - How long will it take; what is the timeframe?
5. Qualifications
    - What are your personal qualifications to do the research?
6. List of References Cited in the Text

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Students should submit one electronic copy of the complete application package (in pdf format) and arrange for their faculty sponsors to send one electronic copy (in pdf format) of the completed recommendation form to *djostrach@gmail.com* **by April 6, 2026**.

FACULTY RECOMMENDATION

The applicant must conduct the proposed research under the supervision of a faculty sponsor. Faculty sponsors will send one electronic copy (in pdf format) of the completed recommendation form to *djostrach@gmail.com* **by April 6, 2026**.

REVIEW PROCEDURES

The NorCal SETAC Scholarship Committee will select awardees based on the following criteria:

a) Overall quality of the proposal
b) Creativity and innovation
c) Personal qualifications to carry out the proposed work
d) Capability of the student to complete the proposed research in one year (i.e., is the proposal realistic?)
e) The need for and importance of the research

Awards will be dispersed to the students within 30 days of notification.

NorCal SETAC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS APPLICATION

2026 APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

University: _____

Graduate Group or Dept.: _____

Mailing Address: _____

GPA: _____ Degree Sought: _____

Program Start Date: _____ Faculty Sponsor:_____

Faculty Sponsor's Dept.: _____

Title of Proposal: _____

Summary of Proposal (75-100 words)

I certify by entering my name below that I prepared this proposal and that I meet the eligibility requirements for a NorCal SETAC Research Award. If awarded this scholarship, I agree to present my research at a NorCal SETAC meeting when results are ready to present.

Name_____ Date_____

Students will submit one electronic copy (in pdf format) of the completed proposal to *djostrach@gmail.com* by April 6**, 2026**.

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PROPOSED BUDGET

1. Estimated Expenditures from NorCal SETAC funds:

a. Field Expense (for data collection)

Travel (place) _____ $_____

Subsistence _____ $_____

b. Supplies (itemize) _____ $_____

_____ $_____

_____ $_____

_____ $_____

c. Equipment (itemize) _____ $_____

_____ $_____

_____ $_____

_____ $_____

_____ $_____

d. Computer Time _____ $_____

e. Reproduction _____ $_____

f. Special texts: _____ $_____

g. Other _____ $_____

2. Total requested from NorCal SETAC $_____

3. Total Cost of Project $_____

4. All Sources of Support for the Project. (If more than $2,000 is required for the project, NorCal SETAC must be assured that other funds are, or will be, available.)

Students will submit one electronic copy (in pdf format) of the completed proposal to *djostrach@gmail.com* by April 6**, 2026**.

NorCal SETAC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

FACULTY SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name of Applicant: _____

University: _____

Department or Group: _____

The above-named student is applying for a NorCal SETAC Research Award, and has prepared a written research proposal to be evaluated by NorCal SETAC. As part of the evaluation procedure, a recommendation report from the student's Faculty Sponsor is required. The scholarship goes directly to the student. Please fill in the appropriate sections and **return one electronic copy (in pdf format) of this form** to *djostrach@gmail.com* **by April 6, 2026**.

1. Acquaintance with applicant. Indicate how long and in what capacities you have known the applicant.

2. Evaluation of Applicant. Comment specifically on the following items:
    a) The scientific merit and overall quality of the written research proposal
    b) The applicant's academic and research abilities
    c) The applicant's promise in research
    d) How the applicant's proposal is associated with other projects in your laboratory

3. Please rate this student in overall promise:

Below average	☐
Average	☐
Somewhat above average	☐
Good	☐
Unusually good	☐
Outstanding	☐
Truly exceptional	☐
Inadequate opportunity to observe	☐

4. By entering my name below, I certify that the applicant plans to be enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student (circle one) for the 2026-2027 academic year and that I will supervise the applicant in the proposed research.

Department: _____

Name of Faculty Sponsor: _____

Date: _____