



Pier2Peer Scholarship Program

[The Ocean Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network](#) (GOA-ON), is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for GOA-ON Pier2Peer program participants. These awards help support international collaborations between mentors and mentees that result in tangible gains in technical capacity, cooperation, and knowledge. Scholarships can be awarded in amounts up to USD \$5,000-\$7,500 given reasonable justification. The next application deadline is **March 31, 2026**.

Objectives

This scholarship opportunity will facilitate collaboration among **active¹ Pier2Peer program participants** to enhance the quality and coverage of ocean acidification observations as well as improve our understanding of ocean acidification's impact on species of importance and critical ecosystems.

The primary purpose of this scholarship is to build the capacity of scientists who are relatively new to studying ocean acidification (the mentees, or "peers") by enabling them to design and implement observation and research programs through collaboration with experienced ocean acidification researchers (the mentors, or "piers").

Proposed monitoring and research should align with the goals of GOA-ON, which are:

1. Improve our understanding of global ocean acidification conditions.
2. Improve our understanding of ecosystem response to ocean acidification.
3. Acquire and exchange data and knowledge necessary to optimize modeling for ocean acidification and its impacts.

Scope and Eligibility

Proposals should outline joint activity/activities between mentor/mentee pairs that have been (1) officially matched AND (2) active within Pier2Peer for two years or less, focusing on building capacity of the mentee to conduct ocean acidification research and establishing a collaboration with long-term impacts for ocean acidification observation and knowledge exchange. One or more activities can be proposed, such as virtual mentoring, hands-on training with observing equipment, and/or learning new sample analysis techniques. Examples of what the scholarship could be used for include travel, training materials, equipment and supply costs, and/or information resources. Preference will be given to Pier2Peer pairs that have not received past scholarship funding. Previous recipients must not currently have an active award or be overdue on the final report. Please note that the mentor should be consulted prior to submitting the application.

The joint activity/activities should expand the capabilities of the mentee, or both partners, and improve understanding of the challenge ocean acidification poses to the marine systems and dependent human communities in the mentee's region. Proposals should clearly describe how the activity/activities will enable the mentee to contribute to ocean acidification understanding, either directly (now) in the course of the project or indirectly (in the near future) through training of other experts in the region and related outreach. Priority will be given to applicants that identify how their proposed activities address regional gaps in achieving GOA-ON goals.

1. To be considered an active pair, mentees must be currently participating in the program (not graduated) and must be in regular, quarterly contact with their mentor. If you are unsure of your status, check with the P2P Coordinator.

Please explain how the proposed work will build long-term legacy or capacity for the individual's institution or region, as well as the need for funding and if other funding support is already available.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria (**100 points**):

- The ability of the project to expand OA science capabilities of the mentee, including consideration of other available funding sources, if applicable. (*Note: this scholarship is primarily intended to fund capacity building opportunities that are not already funded*) - **25 points**
- The ability of the project to create long-term capacity for ocean acidification research in the mentee's institution or region - **20 points**
- Plan for the mentee to share the knowledge they gain with other interested peers and colleagues to further increase capacity - **10 points**
- The suitability of the activity/activities to the expertise, skill levels, financial resources, and technical resources of the mentor and mentee - **20 points**
- The suitability of the budget for the activity/activities and outcomes - **15 points**
- The ability of the activity/activities to pursue knowledge (chemical, biological or socioeconomic) that fills a gap in current efforts to monitor ocean acidification within the GOA-ON community - **10 points**

Note: The scholarship is not intended to support travel to attend conferences. Exceptions may be made if the travel to a conference is clearly connected to achieving the project goals. The scholarship granted must be spent within twelve months of receipt (unless express permission is granted by The Ocean Foundation for an extension), and can be partitioned between the mentor and mentee as appropriate. Scholarship recipients will commit to submitting a report at the completion of their one-year project that details the outcomes of their collaboration and how funds were expended.

Application Components

Applications should be jointly submitted by the Pier2Peer mentor and mentee, a maximum of four pages, and should contain the following:

1. Project outline to include:
 - a. A brief description of the overall objective(s) and purpose(s) (½ page) and;
 - b. A brief background on the current capacity for ocean acidification research and/or monitoring in the relevant region (½ page);
2. Specifics of the mentoring and training activity/activities proposed (½ page)
3. How the project will benefit the mentee and contribute to regional OA capacity by expanding their capabilities (½ page);
4. How the project will share knowledge and increase long-term capacity in the relevant institution or region (½ page);
5. Proposed line-item budget, noting the amount requested by mentor and mentee (½ page).
6. Brief biography of the applicants (1 paragraph each)

Submission Instructions

Please submit your application to The Ocean Foundation (TOF.EquiSea@oceanfdn.org) by **March 31, 2026**. When submitting your application, please cc all mentors/mentees as well as the Pier2Peer Coordinator, Liz Perotti (liz.perotti@noaa.gov).